THE TIMES

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Confrontation with unions expected

Byers scraps minimum wage rules

By Philip Webster, political editor

STEPHEN BYERS is risking his first confrontation with the trade unions by allowing employers to escape the need to keep special records to show that they are observing the national minimum wage.

And the Industry Secretary has scrapped plans for details of the minimum wage to accompany every payslip.

Mr Byers has concluded that the regulations as they stand would be too burdensome and costly for industry and that the publicity surrounding the launch of the minimum wage on April 1 will be enough to inform people of their entitlements.

The changes will infuriate union leaders who believe that publishing minimum wage statements and keeping specific records will be crucial to enforcement. But they will enhance Mr Byers's pro-business credentials, since they will save companies about £200 million a year.

Mr Byers last week ordered the Department of Trade and Industry to review all regulations as they affected employers, to root out unnecessary red tape, and he has astonished officials with his swift ruling that the changes should be made to the minimum wage rules that are being published this week, possibly today.

Under the regulations, drawn up by officials in accordance with standing DTI practice, employers would have been required to send every employee a 250-word statement with their payslip giving details of the minimum wage(£3.60 an hour for over-21s, £3 for 18-21 year olds, and £3.20 for trainees over 22) and an explanation of their rights.

It would have gone to everyone — from cleaner to Cabinet minister. Mr Byershas concluded that is unnecessary and that people will be made fully aware of their rights through media coverage and government advertisements.

The Industry Secretary has also decided to drop the specific requirement on employers to keep records solely on the minimum wage. These would have included details for every employee on gross and net pay, overtime, holidays, advances and other minutiae. Mr. Byers has told colleagues that he is satisfied that existing records that firms have to keep will be sufficient to show that they are observing the law and that an extra set of forms is unnecessary.

A third change ordered by Mr Byers is the scrapping of the requirement on employers to keep special records for people who work unusual hours such as teachers, school meals supervisors and cleaners who work at schools during termtimes. Their minimum wage entitlements will be based on the hours they spend working, but there will be no need for separate records.

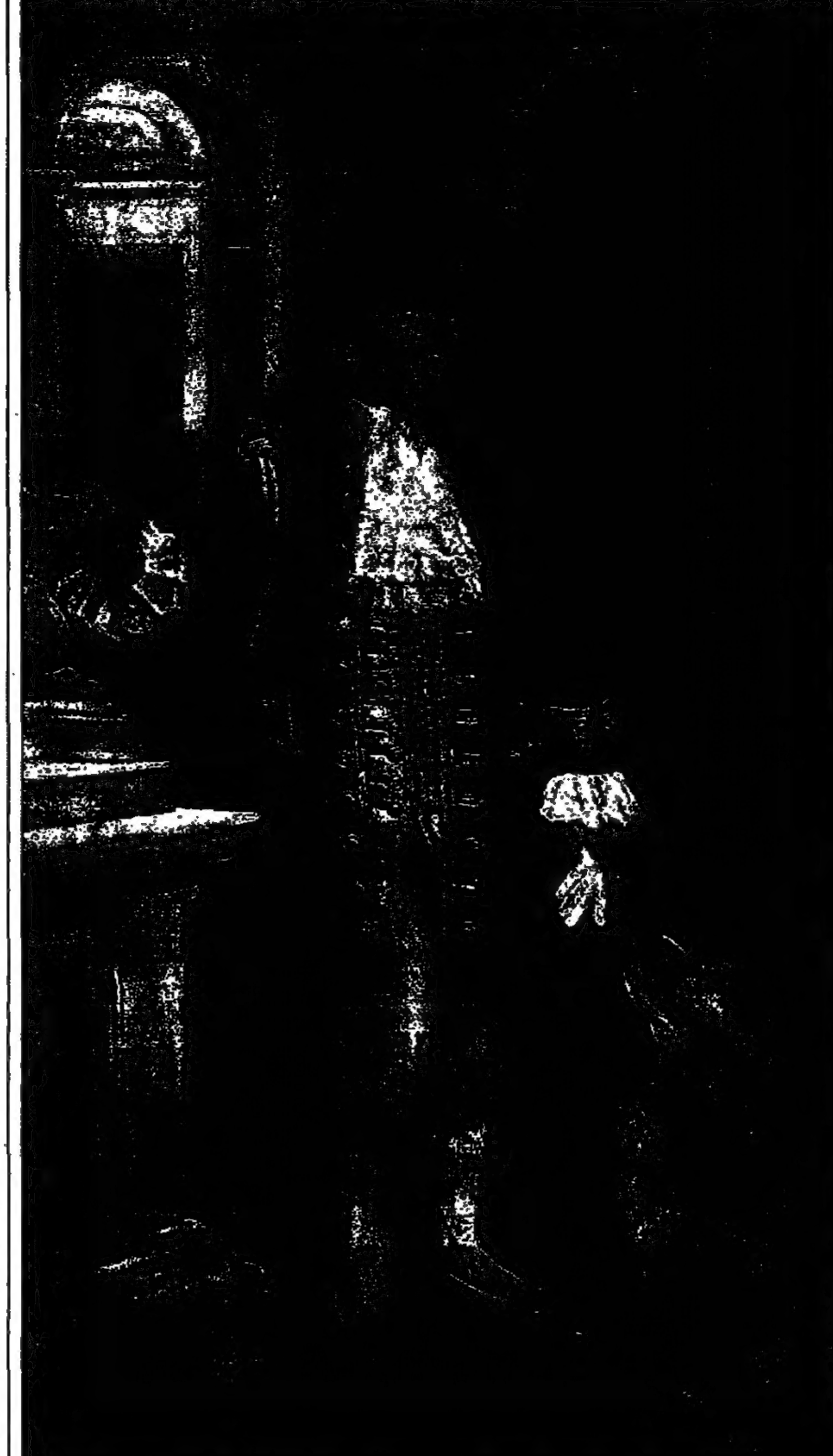
The moves will enhance Mr Byers's reputation as one of the Cabinet's leading Blairites. He upset some on the Left recently when, in his first keynote speech as Industry Secretary, he declared that wealth creation was more important than wealth redistribution.

They will also reassure industrialists who regretted the departure of Mr Byers's predecessor Peter Mandelson, who established a strong pro-business reputation in his short time at the department. But they may increase union suspicions about Mr Byers which have lingered since he told journalists at a Labour conference that he thought the party might sever its links with the unions.

After the early success of his new crusade against red tape, Mr Byers has told officials to look at a range of other directives and regulations to see whether savings to business can be made.

A DTI source said: "The regulations are overdone. Everything has to be gold-plated. Everyone knows about the minimum wage and to require this huge amount of bureaucracy would have been quite unacceptable.

"But the review is only just under way. No stone will be left unturned as look for more red tape to remove from the system."


Katrina Bovill's portrait of Earl Percy, who will have to wait 11 years for his inheritance

Duke acts to save his son from too much too young

By Christine Middap

ONE of Britain's wealthiest men yesterday won High Court approval to defer his son's inheritance to protect him from the dangers of having too much money too young.

Earl Percy, 14, the eldest son of the 12th Duke of Northumberland, was to have received £250,000 a year from the £13.5 million Albury Estate in Surrey when he turned 18.

But the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland thought it would be dangerous and irresponsible for him to have so much money at such a young age. The court was told that the Eton schoolboy could be exposed to "spongers", and was reminded of the fate of the Marquess of Bristol, who inherited more than £1 million at 18 and died of chronic drug abuse last month aged 44.

The court was also reminded of the boy's uncle, the flamboyant 11th Duke of Northumberland, who died aged 42 after taking an accidental overdose of presciption amphetamines in 1995.

Mark Herbert, QC, representing the Duchess, said the perception in the family was that the 11th Duke had not been made happy by wealth and his brother, Ralph, who inherited his title wanted to protect his son from the vices, obstacles and dangers of wealth.

Edward Davidson, QC, representing the Duke, said that there was no suggestion that he was being a heavy-handed father who wanted to keep his son in his place. The boy would still enjoy ample funds, "well beyond that of most of us", and suitable protection from harm. "This man is not going to be deprived of any money that he can sensibly use."

Mr Herbert said the Duchess also believed it would be "criminal" to allow her son his full entitlement at 18. He said that George Percy was a "normal 14-year-old" who had not been shown to be irresponsible or incapable. "He is a clever boy, hardworking and ambitious to cope with the real world and make his own way in it."


The 11th Duke: wealth did not bring him happiness

There were 13 defendants to yesterday's action, including Earl Percy's younger brother and two sisters. Their lawyers all supported the move to vary the family's Will Trust, which was approved by Mr Justice Pumfrey.

Earl Percy will now not receive his income until he is 25, but will instead receive what he "reasonably needs", as determined by trustees, from his 18th birthday.

Ready for anything, page 3

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Blair eats 'healthy, tasty' genetic foods

By Philip Webster, political editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday gave his approval to genetically modified food. Downing Street said that the Prime Minister thought it was safe, that he ate it himself, and that he believed it could be tastier, cheaper and healthier.

But a spokesman refused to be drawn on whether Mr Blair's children ate such food.

Officials revealed his "frustration" that the informed arguments in favour of the food were not coming across.

They emphasised the high safety standards that were in place and Whitehall's efforts to monitor the latest developments in biotechnology.

Ministers are worried by polls suggesting that the public is alarmed about genetically modified food.

Last night it emerged that a "stakeholders' forum" was being considered to advise the Government on new processes and products. The Cabinet committee under Jack Cunningham which is examining the issue is expected to recommend that an advisory body be established. It "would include those who had an interest in pushing ahead with research on biotechnology as well as those who did not", a Government spokesman said.

"Well it doesn't look genetically modified to me"

The Conservatives yesterday launched a campaign to force supermarkets to label all products containing genetically modified ingredients.

John Redwood, the shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said many stores had already responded to consumer concern by introducing labelling or banning such products.

He said the Government should not blame the European Union for delays in introducing compulsory labelling.

The Government was committed to a full labelling regime, Downing Street said.

The Government has said only three genetically modified food products are on sale: a tomato paste, some soya and maize, and some cheeses made using rennet. It was confident they were safe.

Missing bonus, page 4

Psychopaths to be held without trial

By Richard Ford
Home correspondent

PAEDOPHILES and dangerous psychopaths will be locked up indefinitely, even if they have not committed a crime, under draconian proposals announced by Jack Straw yesterday.

Civil liberties groups immediately expressed alarm at the planned detention order, which is aimed at people with severe personality disorders who are not regarded as treatable under mental health laws.

There are about 2,000 people in Britain, but only 200 of them are thought to be at large — the vast majority are in jail and the rest in hospitals.

The idea is to plug the loophole in existing law which prevented the authorities locking up Michael Stone before he killed Megan and Lin Russell, and made it impossible to

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 21

Tamoxifen causes as well as cures cancer

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

TAMOXIFEN, the anti-cancer drug that saves 1,000 lives a year in Britain alone, can itself cause cancer and should not be used as a preventive medicine by healthy women, a study published today says.

The drug is prescribed to 80 per cent of the 30,000 women found to have breast cancer each year and there is no doubt that it helps them to live longer and reduces the risk of the disease developing in both breasts.

For women with the cancer, the drug's side effects — which include cancer of the womb lining — are considered a risk worth taking, since after five years on tamoxifen a patient is 30 times better off than if she had never had it.

However, the survey published in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* shows the risks of some cancers increase fourfold for women taking the drug for more than five years.

The results show the dangers of an American initiative to have the drug licensed as a treatment for women at high risk of develping the disease.

Tamoxifen's success in preventing breast cancer's reccurance prompted trials to see if it could also prevent women closely related to sufferers getting the disease. Last year in America those trials were suspended after two years — long before they were complete — because researchers claimed they had demonstrated a 45 per cent reduction in breast cancer among treated women.

British researchers, angered by the American decision, say that it was too early to be certain tamoxifen did help with prevention. British trials are, therefore, continuing. Trials reviewed in the new survey show that after taking the drug for two years, the number of women developing cancer of the womb lining doubles — and after five years quadruples — compared with women not taking it. One trial showed that women on tamoxifen with this kind of cancer were less easy to treat than those not taking it.

There is also clear evidence that women on tamoxifen are more likely to grow polyps and show hormonal changes on cervical smears — two risk factors for the development of other cancers.

The survey, by Sezgin Ismail of the University of Wales College of Medicine in Cardiff, is based on research projects going back for more than a decade. She said: "America jumped the gun on this ... There is clearly a significant risk involved in taking if and this could be higher than the risk of healthy women developing breast cancer if they do not take it."

Medicine chest, page 14

Bleeding heart Tories find Straw a touch too totalitarian



Spookily, hundreds in the Commons chamber were thinking the same thing yesterday, but only one dared voice it. "What if ...?"

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, had described what he called "new measures to protect the public from dangerous people" — and nobody called it "detention without trial". He was moderate and careful in his argument.

Nor could anyone call Mr Straw a fascist: few would even describe him as right-wing: and nobody thinks new Labour are Nazis. Yet there can hardly have been a parliamentary observer yesterday who did not, however momentarily, reflect on the rise of the Third Reich and wonder — at once dismissing the thought — how the very first steps on what became a journey to totalitarianism might have looked to observers at the time.

There was a measure of support yesterday for Mr Straw's ideas, and a measure of unease. Both came equally from both sides.

Some support was unreserved. Gerry Bermingham (Lab, St Helens S) offered a lawyerly and orotund welcome. Sir Norman Fowler, Straw's Shadow, went further, casually overturning 1,000 years of English criminal jurisprudence. "It cannot be right," he declared, "to have people in the community where there is a very real belief they are a danger". A Roman Procurator of Judaea once reached a similar conclusion.

Sir Norman went to on call (or appeared to) for life sentences for sex offenders and a reversal of the ordinary presumption: "offenders should not be released unless we can be confident they will not reoffend". Hmm.

For the Liberal Democrats, Simon Hughes, who is making a habit of shying at the final fence, galloped confidently up to the sticks (Straw's plan would be "widely agreed") and then slithered whinnying into the mud: its terms would have to be defined "sufficiently tightly". This was not "to be treated lightly" — was it? Astonishingly, Straw agreed not.

Among the doubters there were the predictables. To shouts of "no", Tony Benn spoke of Northern Ireland, internment, and Soviet justice. Ann Clwyd (Lab, Cynon Valley) recalled her own doubts on a mental health tribunal, trying (without confidence) to assess human dangerousness.

Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe and Nantwich) was a less expected sceptic. Justified or not, the plan was "an abuse of human rights". Mrs Dunwoody, a commonsense conservative of Labour's old school, is no bleeding-heart liberal, and her question raised eyebrows.

As did Virginia Bottomley's. Welcoming Straw's ideas, she then unwelcomed them, calling the Government a dedicated follower of fashion and wondering how strong was the underlying case. To be attacked from the Left by Mrs Bottomley is confusing.

For the Tories' Jacqui Lait (Beckenham), who also stopped short of opposing the idea, the plan "reeked of incarceration". To be attacked from the Left by *anyone* from Beckenham is deeply confusing: your sketchwriter, the grandson of a Beckenham family butcher, can testify to this.

But it was the attack from Reigate that stunned. Crispin Blunt, the town's Tory MP, went straight for the jugular. The Home Secretary's proposals surrendered to the "something-must-be-done" tendency "and the tabloid press". Did Straw not realise that these forces would now exert "enormous pressure to eliminate all risks"? Either Mr Blunt is a very plucky fellow, or Reigate is capable of liberal doubt: or possibly both.

Backbench MPs are rough-and-ready philosophers, yet sensitive to unseen but potent frontiers. Yesterday afternoon Jack Straw may have sensed himself coming uncomfortably close to one of these.

Best doctors and nurses to get more pay

By Jill Sherman and Ian Murray

BRITAIN'S best nurses and doctors will be rewarded with higher wages under a reform of NHS pay structures announced yesterday.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, unveiled plans to introduce the first stages of performance-related pay and to allow local managers to set their own pay rates. The proposals infuriated the health service unions and the Royal College of Nursing, which has long resisted performance pay and local pay bargaining.

Teaching unions have already served warning that they will try to block government attempts to introduce merit pay. Unison, the public service union, said it was "disgusted and dismayed".

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, accused the Government of a U-turn and claimed it had merely hijacked Tory policy to introduce local pay bargaining.

Currently nurses' and doctors' pay is linked to length of service. The most skilled will now be able to leapfrog over colleagues into higher pay grades.

Some 500,000 doctors and nurses will for the first time be able to get extra pay for "competence", taking on extra responsibilities and gaining new skills. Top performing medical teams and hospitals will be eligible for bonuses, and senior nurses and doctors will have individual performance pay.

The plans — set out in a consultation document, *Agenda for Change* — will also allow managers to set pay locally and determine where new staff should join pay scales.

Health department officials denied that this would be a move back to local pay bargaining, introduced briefly by the Tories in the late 1980s and strongly opposed by Labour. It failed because appeals by thousands of nurses who thought they had been unfairly treated caused long delays in awards.

Under the new system, which will be negotiated with the unions and the health service professions, the separate nurses' and doctors' pay review bodies will still determine pay nationally. But hospital managers will be given the powers to top up payments locally where there are retention or recruitment difficulties or where they can reward staff for good performance.

Health officials insisted that the report makes the first moves towards an element of performance-related pay but that pay based only on performance would be confined to most senior staff.

The document proposes that the hundreds of existing pay scales and grades should be merged into three national pay scales, one for doctors and dentists, one for staff covered by the Nursing Pay Review Body and one for other staff. Pay bands would then be decided in negotiation with unions and employers.

The paper also signals that in future nurses would be able to take over some of the responsibilities of junior doctors to allow much more flexibility in nurses' duties. Frank Dobson said the pay system would give better career profession, modern conditions of service, and a fair basis for pay rises within a national framework.

The RCN welcomed a commitment to a national pay framework, but said there must be no return to local agreements: "While we are willing to explore some flexibility to take account of local factors, we must have strong safeguards to ensure all nurses are fairly treated."

MIKE STEPHENS/PA



Helen Palmer, left, and Lesley Cannon, right, outside court after the judge ruled that the hospital had been negligent

Damages for smear failures

Women whose cervical problems were missed will receive substantial payouts, reports **Richard Duce**

THREE women are to receive damages after a judge ruled yesterday that failure to spot the early signs of cervical cancer during routine smear tests had been negligent.

The women, one of whom does not have children, are now infertile. Although the judge said that his ruling should not alarm other women, Sarah Harman, solicitor for the three, said the evidence had highlighted unacceptable differences in screening standards around Britain.

Helen Palmer, Lesley Cannon and Sandra Penney will return to court later this year for damages to be assessed after the ruling by Judge Peppitt, QC, sitting as a High Court judge in Canterbury, that East Kent Health Authority was liable.

All three were screened at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, which was the subject of an inquiry more than a year ago when some 90,000 cases were reviewed because of false negative reporting at the smear test laboratory. The failings at the laboratory have contributed to eight deaths, 30 hysterectomies and treatment for hundreds of other women. Compensation of more than £1 million has already been paid to some 50 women.

At the damages hearing Mrs Palmer, 36, Mrs Cannon, 39, and Mrs Penney will for the first time tell a judge how an unexpected diagnosis of cancer affected their lives. Previous evidence has been from expert witnesses only.

Mrs Palmer and Mrs Cannon already have children and can expect damages of about £30,000. Mrs Penney, who had to have a hysterectmy, had no children and her damages are expected to be about £50,000.

Mrs Cannon, who has seven children, said after the hearing: "I didn't know if I was going to live or die and we didn't need to go through this in court as well. I hope the case will set new standards for screening across the country."

Doctors for the women had argued that screeners should have spotted abnormalities in the smear tests and at least asked for a rescreen if not referred them to a consultant.

Doctors for the health authority said that even with the advances in screening over the last few years the smear tests would still be regarded as negative or border line by a competent screener.

Jim Smith, chief executive of Kent and Canterbury NHS Trust, said later: "These were cases where the expert advice said we should contest liability. I'm saddened that the women had to go through this." A further 11 cases where liability was at issue will be reviewed in light of the ruling, he said.

Olympic sponsors want Samaranch to step down

By John Goodbody and Devlin Barrett

THE biggest sponsors of the Olympics want Juan Antonio Samaranch to resign as President of the International Olympic Committee because the Games have become tarnished by the 'cash-for-votes' scandal.

A closed meeting in New York last week of at least five sponsors, who are contributing £150 million over four years to the Olympic movement, demanded "a very public, very substantive show of change." They believe that this could best be achieved by the former Spanish diplomat, who has been president since 1980, stepping down.

One source at the meeting said: "Nobody stood, shook their fist and said that Samaranch must go, but the undercurrent of the meeting was that the sponsors felt that he should go."

Olympic officials were present to hear the views of their leading supporters. Xerox, Kodak, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, UPS, the delivery company, and John Hancock, the insurance company, were all there.

Another sponsor, who declined to be identified, said: "Everyone is appalled. Everyone wants action now. There is nothing to be gained in going public with that right now but at some point the sponsors' patience will run out."

the sponsors disagreed on whether the changes in the IOC should come this week or at the March meeting in Switzerland.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister condemns Tube strike

The transport minister, John Reid, said a 48-hour strike on the London Underground was "unreasonable and unnecessary". The strike, which ends tonight, resulted in the closure of 25 stations during the rush-hour although all but nine opened by mid-morning. The transport union RMT is demanding no compulsory lay-offs or changes to conditions under plans to sell part of the network to private enterprise. Dr Reid said assurances had been given in principle to safeguard terms and conditions, but demands such as a job for life would win no friends among the travelling public.

Prison riot

Accommodation blocks at Haverigg jail in Cumbria were burnt down by rioting inmates who caused damage totalling £1 million in a protest, allegedly over the introduction of chairs without cushions. Eight blocks were wrecked by fire during the eight-hour rampage. 190 inmates have been moved to other prisons.

Livingstone rally

Ken Livingstone's battle to become Labour's official Mayor of London candidate intensified as he staged a "Let Ken Stand" rally at Westminster's Central Hall, London. The event was attended by a number of his celebrity supporters, among them Jo Brand, the comedian, and Beryl Bainbridge, the author.

Heathrow error

Balfour Beatty has been fined a record £1.2 million over a tunnel collapse at Heathrow Airport in 1994. The Old Bailey was told that the civil engineering failure could have "unzipped" the Piccadilly tube line. Geoconsult, engineering consultants, were fined £½ million and each firm was ordered to pay £100,000 in costs.

Kidnap pair free

A British teacher and his two-year-old son, who were kidnapped while playing on a river beach in Nigeria, were freed unharmed yesterday. Shell, the teacher's employers, said that no ransom was demanded or paid for Martin Westbury, 39, and his son Benjamin, who were released 24 hours after being captured.

Teachers' protest

A majority of teachers have rejected performance-related pay. A poll of more than 1,000 teachers for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers showed that three quarters oppose payment by results. If government concessions are not forthcoming, the union promises to take action.

Psychopaths to be locked up

Continued from page 1

keep predatory paedophiles such as Robert Oliver in detention after they have completed their jail terms.

But Mr Straw offered no details yesterday of where such people would be kept. The Home Office said that they could be detained in either the prisons or special hospitals or a completely new network of secure units.

Under the Home Secretary's proposals, police or social workers would be able to ask the courts to have someone detained if they believed they were a risk to the community, even if they had not committed a crime.

Mr Straw told MPs: "There is a group of dangerous and severely personally disordered individuals from whom the public are not properly protected and who are neither restrained effectively by the criminal law nor mental health provisions. Their propensity to commit the most serious sexual and violent acts may be well-known and recorded."

Mr Straw admitted that his proposals, which will be the subject of a consultation paper later this spring, were a "serious step" and he promised that safeguards, including regular quasi-judicial reviews.

The new order aims to deal with offenders like Michael Stone who murdered Lin and Megan Russell weeks after asking to be admitted to hospital because he felt out of control. But Stone, suffering from a psychopathic personality disorder, could not be detained under existing mental health laws.

It is also aimed at men such as Robert Oliver, who was convicted of killing runaway teenager Jason Swift. Oliver was also deemed to be suffering from a personality disorder and was released from jail even though he is still considered a great danger to children. He is now being held in a medium secure unit in Milton Keynes at a cost of £320 a day.

Penny Buller, of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation welcomed the plans for dealing with psychopaths. "They are ticking time bombs which we do not currently have the power to defuse unless a further offence is committed," she said.

But The Bar Council and Liberty, the civil rights pressure group, expressed concern at the proposals. A spokesman for the Bar Council said: "Plans to lock someone up before they have committed a crime need to be examined extremely carefully given the presumption of innocence in our legal system. There are plenty of people who are potentially dangerous, do we lock them all up?"

John Wadham, director of Liberty, said the plans were "quite shocking".

Leading article, page 21

Hotspur: ready for anything at 18

Dominic Kennedy looks back at the Duke of Northumberland's colourful and combative ancestors

THE historic house of Percy has skilfully kept its power, influence, lands and fortunes through nearly a millennium of bloody intrigue.

Throughout the Middle Ages and the reigns of the Tudors and Stuarts, a young Percy was more likely to find himself in peril on the battlefield than from the the temptations of a debauched youth.

The most famous Percys were the first Earl of Northumberland and his son Henry "Harry" Hotspur, who were both commemorated by Shakespeare in *Henry IV Part One*. In those days, a man was never too young to be trusted with the Percy inheritance.

By the age of 18, Henry, the first Earl, had already led English troops in France and he was a warden of the Scottish marches at 20. Hotspur, so named for his enthusiasm for patrolling the border with Scotland, was just 24 when kidnapped by invading Scots and held to ransom in 1388-89. The house of Percy was founded by William de Percy (c1030-1096), whose loyalty was rewarded by William the Conqueror with a vast fief in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

The Northumberland family's coat of arms

For nearly 1,000 years the Percys have played a colourful role in British history, as plotters, schemers and warriors in and out of favour at court.

Henry de Percy (1273-1314) was one of Edward I's most enthusiastic supporters in subjugating Scotland until forced to withdraw to England by Robert the Bruce. Henry was summoned to Parliament as a baron in Edward I's time but later became part of the baronial opposition to Edward II, the king obsessed with his homosexual lover Piers de Gaveston. Edward ended up gruesomely murdered but Henry de Percy thrived, buying land to make the family the biggest landowners in Northumberland.

Henry de Percy (1341-1408), became the Marshal of England and was made Earl of Northumberland at Richard II's Coronation in 1377 but he too became his King's enemy. From 1398 Henry supported the Duke of Hereford (later Henry IV) and played a leading role in Richard's abdication. Disloyalty had become a habit.

Henry went on to plot against the new king and was killed at Bramhan Moore. His son Sir Henry Percy, known as Hotspur, led the most serious uprising against Henry IV but was killed fighting his king at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403.

The earldom lapsed in 1537 on the death of the 6th earl. When the earldom was restored to the Percys in 1557 there was more trouble to come for the new and 7th Earl, Thomas (1528-72), who had been rewarded for his faithful military service. Thomas was beheaded in York marketplace for involvement with the northern rebellion that sought to free Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, and allow toleration for Roman Catholics under Elizabeth I. Henry, the 8th Earl (c1532-85), also suspected of pro-Catholic plotting and support for Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned in the Tower of London and found shot through the heart there.

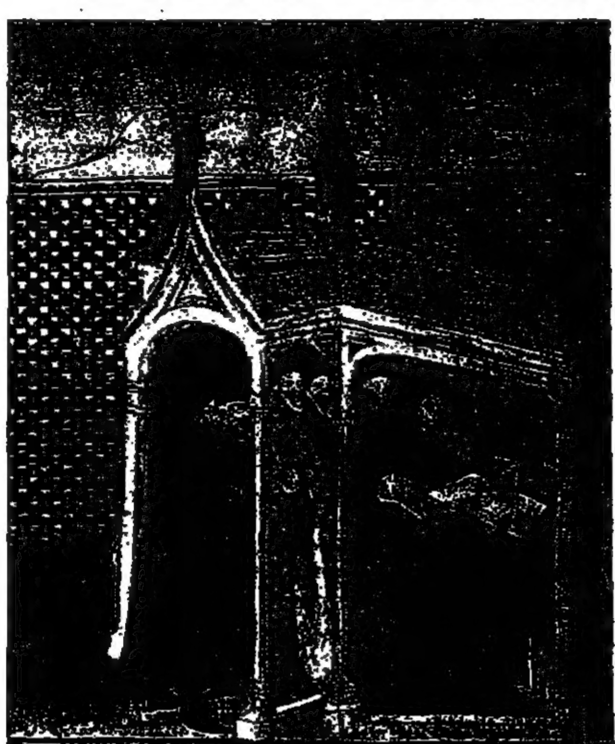
Henry the 9th Earl (1564-1632) was imprisoned in the Tower from 1605 to 1621 on suspicion of being involved in the Gunpowder Plot. His cousin Thomas Percy was a chief plotter.

Today the Percys are still prominent in national affairs. The present Duke is frequently described as a multimillionaire land owner and proprietor of cultural and artistic treasures.

Unlike most dukes, he has stayed in his fiefdom, Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, while owning Syon House in West London. His eccentric brother Harry, who escorted the model Naomi Campbell's mother Valerie, was found dead at Syon in November 1995.



The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle with their son George, who is to be protected from the perils of sudden wealth



Henry de Percy swearing his allegiance to Richard II

Where there's a will, there may be a drag

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG people in line for multimillion-pound inheritances are increasingly unlikely to be able to touch their wealth until they are 25.

Princes William and Harry are the among the beneficiaries on whom conditions have been imposed to ensure they do not inherit their £12.9 million share of their mother's estate until they are mature.

In extreme cases trustees of large estates have cut their children out of their inheritance if they do not comply with their wishes — most notably as with Jamie Blandford, son of the Duke of Marlborough, who has been stripped of the right to inherit the £100 million estate. The Duke feared that his son, who has been addicted to drugs, would squander the family fortune.

Kate Howe, a trusts expert with Boodle Hatfield, said it was common practice for trustees to ensure that a young person did not inherit a huge lump sum at the age of 18. But if they were faced with a will that allowed this, it would be right to go to court to seek a variation. "It is no reflection on the young person; it is just the trustees saying that 18 is a very young age to have, say, £1 million at your disposal when you have never had to work or appreciate the value of money."

For hundreds of years will-makers have exacted conditions. A Wilfred Thompson left £16,000 to his niece in 1971 on condition she never marry. In the same year a man was left £36,000 by his aunt on condition that he marry a dark girl over 5ft 10in with an interest in classical music.

In 1972 the grandson of the 5th Lord Hatherton had to change his name from Perceval to Littleton to benefit from a bequest of £100,000.

More demanding was the request that a dental nurse had to spend five years without wearing make-up or going out with a man to collect £181,000 left to her by her former employer. A millionaire stipulated that his non-smoking, nagging wife must smoke five cigarettes a year before she could inherit his wealth.

Woman threw life away for love of a criminal

BY ADAM SHERWIN

A SINGLE mother who spent years pursuing her ambition to go to university threw her life away after a chance meeting with a glamorous criminal, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Michelle Niles, 30, met the leader of a London gang in a pub and was struck by a "thunderbolt of love". She was soon acting as the getaway driver on a series of armed raids.

The court was told that Niles, from Edmonton, North London, had spent her adult life seeking to better herself and take care of her family. She was supporting a ten-year-old daughter and was a "well spoken, well educated and attractive" woman who was a role model for others.

She was studying for her degree when she went for a drink and was introduced to a man referred to in court as Harvey. John Plumstead, for Niles, said: "In the space of six weeks she threw away everything she had spent her life working for. She was struck by a thunderbolt of love and emotion which was sadly not reciprocated."

Her criminal involvement began when Harvey asked her for a "small favour" to borrow her car. It escalated into Niles entering off-licences and distracting staff so that Harvey and his armed could raid the premises. Niles would also on occasion act as the getaway driver. She admitted taking part in three armed robberies of off-licences that netted the gang over £10,000. She was paid £300 a time. The gang was caught after a police surveillance operation.

Judge Neil Denison, QC, sentencing Niles to 30 months in jail, told her: "These crimes are so serious only a custodial sentence is appropriate. You were under the influence of Harvey but that is no real excuse. I accept there is a good side to you. But you threw all that away because of your infatuation with a man and his glamorous lifestyle."

The man described as Harvey has pleaded guilty to robbery and attempted robbery and is awaiting sentence.

Old Bailey convoy follows in footsteps of German Army

The going is easy for war crimes trial but chilling realities are still to come, reports Alan Hamilton

IT TOOK Mr Justice Potts and his court marginally longer to enter the Republic of Belarus yesterday than it did the German Army in the early hours of June 22, 1941.

Judge, jury, counsel and court officials were on the second day of their journey to the village of Domachevo, to see where Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, a retired British Rail ticket inspector, is alleged to have participated in the murder of Jews during the Second World War. Mr Sawoniuk, who has been spared a return visit to his native village, denies four charges of murder.

The Old Bailey entourage left Warsaw yesterday morning in three coaches with police escorts for the 120-mile journey to the border, through countryside as flat as a Cambridgeshire fen, relieved only by birchwoods and neat villages under a dusting of snow.

At the approach to the frontier post at Brest, a half-mile queue of cars engendered dismay; it can take up to four hours to deal with passports, visas and currency declarations. But the convoy was directed into the diplomatic lane, where courteous officials collected passports and showed no interest in the currency forms that the party had laboriously completed in duplicate.

The jury remained imprisoned in their bus lest someone take their photograph. The judge, in flat cap and walking boots, took a stroll in the slush. William Clegg, QC, leading defence counsel, emerged into the sunshine in a brightly patterned Norwegian sweater.

After 65 minutes the customs officials emerged from their shed with armfuls of passports and the convoy crossed the partially frozen River Bug, to salutes from the border guards and a whoop of delight from the correspondent on the press bus who had won the sweepstake on how long the delay would be.

The Wehrmacht achieved the same border crossing, from Greater Germany into Stalin's Soviet Union, in slightly less time. The start of Operation Barbarossa was signalled by an artillery bombardment and the bombing of nearby Minsk and other centres of population at 3am. The Bug bridge was defended by a mere 40 Soviet border troops, who were overwhelmed by the might of German armour attacking on a 930-mile front.

Within an hour the border village of Domachevo, the court's destination, had fallen to the enemy without a shot being fired. Days after the invasion, the SS had shot 40 prominent citizens in the predominantly Jewish village. Several thousand others fled to the woods or were corralled behind barbed wire in a village ghetto. On the day of Yom Kippur the following year, 2,900 Jews were led from the ghetto in groups of up to 70, marched down a track that came to be known as the road of death, ordered to strip and machine-gunned into ready-dug graves.

After the massacre the Germans, aided by local collaborators, mounted a search-and-kill operation to mop up remaining Jews. The four specimen murder charges against Mr Sawoniuk, of Bermondsey, South London, relate to that operation.

The Russian winter finally defeated Hitler, as it had done Napoleon 129 years before. But the Germans were not driven out of Russia until 1944, leaving behind an estimated one million Jewish dead.

Last night the court was installed in the Intourist Hotel in Brest, which has all the charm of a tax office. Today they will make the short trip to Domachevo to confront the chilling realities of 57 years ago.

Package tour group hid 110,000 cigarettes

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

FIVE holidaymakers returning from the Canary Islands failed to declare some excess baggage — around 110,000 cigarettes. Several of the passengers had enjoyed free holidays in Tenerife in exchange for carrying suitcases full of cigarettes back home.

Exeter Crown Court was told that the five couriers were caught with 114,580 cigarettes on which they should have paid more than £13,000 in duty. What they may not have known was that 26 other passengers on the same flight were also smuggling cigarettes.

All the smugglers had left Britain from airports near their homes in the North East but returned via Exeter airport in January last year. On board their plane were more than half a million cigarettes crammed into cheap suitcases bought in Tenerife.

The five were ordered to pay £6,300 in fines and costs and warned that organised cigarette smuggling would normally lead to jail. All but five of the other smugglers have been dealt with.

Geoffrey Mercer, for the prosecution, said that 200 cigarettes cost £6 in Tenerife and £35 in the UK. The duty-free allowance is 200. "When [three female defendants] were interviewed, they all said the cigarettes were for their personal use or for presents."

Britons prefer to pop their clogs

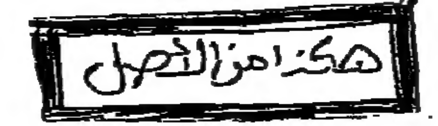
BY SUSIE STEINER

IT IS not the kind of success that pop stars rave about, but the theme from the film *Titanic* has become the most popular choice of music at British funerals. *My Heart Will Go On* by Celine Dion took top place from last year's winner, Elton John's version of *Candle in the Wind* from the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Britain's largest funeral business, Co-operative Funeral Services, undertakes the annual survey from more than 30,000 service. A spokesman said: "The majority of people are requesting modern songs. These give people the final chance to say something about themselves, a loved one or the world in general. While pop songs are increasingly popular, they are as subject to change as the chart on the radio." Songs dropping out of the funeral top 10 include *The Best* by Tina Turner, *Every Breath You Take* by The Police and *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* by Monty Python.

The latest list is: 1 *My Heart Will Go On* by Celine Dion; 2 *Candle in the Wind* Elton John; 3 *Wind Beneath My Wings* Bette Midler; 4 *Search For The Hero* M-People; 5 *My Way* Frank Sinatra; 6 *You'll Never Walk Alone* Gerry and The Pacemakers; 7 *Release Me* Engelbert Humperdinck; 8 *Memory* Elaine Page; 9 *Strangers In the Night* Frank Sinatra; 10 *Bright Eyes* Art Garfunkel.

The top traditional tunes are: 1 *Abide with Me*; 2 *The Old Rugged Cross*; 3 *The Day Thou Gavest*; 4 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*; 5 *Ave Maria*; 6 *Nessun Dorma*; 7 *The Lord Is My Shepherd*; 8 *-23rd Psalm*; 9 *I Walk With God*; 10 *Eternal Father*.



Consumers fail to reap gene benefit

Prime Minister's blessing for 'healthier and tastier' food is premature, says Nigel Hawkes

THE Prime Minister's declaration that genetically modified foods can be "healthier, tastier, and cheaper" was the first positive news for biotechnology companies for weeks.

But the advantages foreseen by Tony Blair have yet to be enjoyed by consumers. So far, the benefits of GM crops have accrued first to the companies producing them, second to the farmers growing them, and only indirectly to those who eat them. That is the root of the public relations problem they face.

Genetic modification can produce crops that contain more vitamins, have better cooking qualities and a longer shelf-life. They can also be made resistant to pests, drought and frost. All these are benefits sought for centuries through conventional plant-breeding and have been brought within man's grasp by the control of genetics.

The first GM products, however, have more limited aspirations. Monsanto's GM soya, the product largely responsible for the controversy over genetic modification, has none of these qualities. It was genetically modified to make it resistant to a herbicide made by Monsanto, Roundup, allowing farmers to kill weeds without damaging the crop.

Monsanto benefits on both counts, selling both GM seed and Roundup to farmers. There is also a benefit for the farmers, who get the equivalent of a 5 per cent increase in yield. It may also be a help to the environment through cutting the amount of herbicide used. But the advantages are not obvious to consumers.

Of the products so far available in Britain, only the GM tomato offers a direct consumer benefit: a longer shelf-life, because the gene responsible for softening has been turned off. Shoppers do not see evidence of this, however, because GM tomatoes are sold only in paste or purée form.

Vegetarian cheese offers an ethical benefit to vegetarians, being made with rennet that owes nothing to the inside of a cow's stomach, the traditional source. The Vegetarian Society, which disavows all other GM foods, has given approval.

GM potatoes have protection against leafroll virus and Colorado beetle, pests that are potentially devastating. The GM products are said to allow farmers to cut use of insecticides and to achieve a 5 per cent better yield.

These crops are not yet licensed in Europe. Figures provided for a House of Lords select committee by Monsanto say they would reduce insecticide use by 80 per cent. For the United States as a whole, that means a saving of 2,000 tonnes of raw materials, 1,500 barrels of oil to manufacture the insecticide, 180,000 containers to put it in, and 600,000 litres of fuel to spray it on the crop. (Only 5 per cent of the total sprayed reaches the pests.)

Other benefits are still to come. One of the most important would be crops genetically engineered to fix their own nitrogen, a trick that legumes and clover perform naturally. Cereals with this modification would need much less nitrogen fertiliser because they would take the gas from the air. Pollution would be reduced because there would be less nitrogen run-off from fertilised fields. Farmers everywhere could benefit from drought-resistant and frost-resistant crops, which would extend both the growing season and the number of places where crops would grow.

Also in the future are crops containing higher levels of vitamins or antioxidant chemicals, to provide protection against heart disease and cancer; potatoes with lower starch levels, that would absorb less fat when fried; salad crops that remain crisper longer; and melons and raspberries that ripen more slowly, keeping them in good condition longer.

Nuts may be developed without the allergens that make them dangerous for some people to eat. It will also be possible to use plants to grow vaccines plentifully and cheaply.

Although Tony Blair's "healthier, tastier and cheaper" claims are yet to be realised, his words hardly begins to do justice to the possibilities.

DAVID HOFFMAN PHOTO LIBRARY



Hard to swallow: an environmental campaigner uprooting Monsanto test crops

THIS STRAWBERRY TASTES JUST LIKE A STRAWBERRY.

Funny how we all suspect fruit and vegetables don't taste "as they used to." Year-round demand, forced ripening times and early harvesting are to blame ... include potatoes that will absorb less oil when fried, corn and soybeans with an increased protein content, tomatoes

Monsanto puts its side of the argument in an advertisement

Frankenstein's image problem

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Government has, for once, got the presentation wrong and the policy broadly right. But on food issues, presentation is all since what matters is maintaining public confidence. The very term "Frankenstein foods" shows what is at stake in the fuss over genetically modified products.

Next to sex scandals, food scares are the trickiest political problems for any government to handle. They are often a recipe for irrationality, fear of the unknown and irresponsible and exaggerated political and media reactions. Even such an experienced minister as Michael Heseltine described BSE as one of the most intractable issues he had faced in more than 30 years in politics. Food is, after all, the most basic of needs. Food scares have a familiar pattern. Either people fall ill, and sometimes die, or an allegation is made about the threat to health. Charges are then made about a slow/inadequate official response and secrecy by scientists.

Sales plummet, ministers flounder in the unfamiliar world of scientists, demands are made for the "Government to do something", and after "something is done" consumer confidence and sales gradually recover to previous levels.

From the salmonella-in-eggs fuss of December 1988 that ended Edwina Currie's time as a minister, through John Gummer's feeding of a beefburger to his young daughter in May 1990, Douglas Hogg's tribulations over BSE three years ago, the beef-on-the-bone ban and the problems over GM foods, scares have usually hindered rather than helped political careers.

A consistent theme has been suspicion of expert advice — a sense that scientists, officials, and particularly politicians, have hidden what is happening from the public. That has dominated the BSE inquiry. In a MORI poll for the Better Regulation Task Force in the Cabinet Office, more than two-thirds of those interviewed were afraid of the long-term effects of chemicals in food, and more than half were concerned about the production of genetically modified food, about BSE and about food poisoning generally.

Any government is in a no-win situation and usually forced on to the defensive when faced with extreme positions typified by Greenpeace's comment that "There are only two sides to this argument — the right one and the wrong one. So far Tony Blair is on the wrong side".

The debate is really about reassurance. The Government has appeared slow to respond: it is hard to rebut emotional fears and the Whitehall machine seldom copes well with demands for instant action. Tory spokesmen such as John Redwood and Tim Yeo have been sharper tactically: for example, pressing both for urgent British legislation to tighten up on labelling in supermarkets, where the Government is seeking action from Brussels, and for a moratorium on commercial planting.

As always, it is really about the balance of risk. Provided that products are properly tested and more clearly labelled, the choice should be up to consumers. There is a distinction between information/advice and bans. The former is a proper role for government; the latter is unnecessary paternalism.

Labour linked to biotechnology companies

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE biotechnology companies producing genetically modified food have substantial links with the Government and the Labour establishment. Ministers and officials have met representatives of GM food manufacturers more than 60 times since May 1997, according to written Commons answers.

The most active company has been Zeneca, a British chemical firm that is developing tomatoes that are slow to rot, which has had 33 meetings in Whitehall.

Monsanto, one of the largest producers of GM crops, has held 23 meetings at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd, sister company to Novartis New Farm Crops Ltd, which specialises in GM maize, spent £15,000 in 1997 sponsoring an exhibition stand and a reception at the Labour Party conference.

It also sponsored a skills training day for new Labour MPs. Officials for the parent company, Novartis UK Ltd, deny any of this amounts to lobbying for GM foods, a claim rejected by environmental campaigners.

Nick Palmer, Labour MP for Broxtowe, is paid up to £5,000 a year as a parliamentary adviser for Novartis. The MP, who worked as a computer scientist for the company for 18 years, briefs managers but deliberately does not lobby for them.

Lord Sainsbury of Turville, the Science Minister, is a supporter of GM foods. His Gatsby Foundation, a charitable trust, pours thousands of pounds into GM food research. Much of the research is carried out through the Sainsbury Laboratory for Plant Molecular Pathology in Norwich, which was set up by Lord Sainsbury 12 years ago. David Hill, the former chief spokesman for Labour, gives media advice to Monsanto in his new role as a director of Bell Pottinger Good Relations.

Stan Greenberg, an American political strategist who worked for Labour between 1992 and 1997, gives consultancy advice to Monsanto. He currently works with his close friend, Philip Gould, Tony Blair's personal pollster.

Tory supermarket chief says foods must not be banned

The chairman of Asda says the risk is greater if Britain is excluded from production, reports Roland Watson

THE Conservatives' leading authority on supermarkets gave warning yesterday of the dangers of adopting a heavy regulatory approach to genetically modified foods.

Archie Norman, the MP for Tunbridge Wells and chairman of Asda, said Britain would risk losing much of the technical expertise it enjoyed in the science. The industry would move to South America from where Europe would end up importing goods without the safeguards it would have if the technology was allowed to develop in Britain, Mr Norman said.

His comments do not fully chime with those of the Tory front bench, where Tim Yeo, the Shadow Agriculture Secretary, and John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, have sought to put pressure on the Government to tighten the regulatory regime.

Mr Norman insists he is not out of step with his colleagues, and supports the idea of a moratorium on the planting of GM crops. However, he said that the long-term effect should be taken into account.

On the issue of a three-year moratorium, as suggested by English Nature, Mr Norman said: "I don't know whether that's the right solution. The risk is that all you do is that the GM industry happens in Argentina and Brazil as well as the United States, and not over here. If you don't handle this well and regulate it well, all you do is export the industry."

Mr Norman, who has retained his interest in Asda since winning his Commons seat at the last election, said the issue was extremely complex but banning GM production was not an option: "It's not as simple as saying we don't want it here."

Mr Norman is adamant that shoppers have nothing to fear from GM foods on sale. There was "very strong evidence" that foods including GM soya, maize and tomato paste were safe. "We wouldn't sell them if they weren't," he said. "We do appreciate customers are concerned and they are entitled to know about it. But we wouldn't sell them if they weren't safe."

Mr Norman said that the Government had been "caught on the hop" and should bring some clarity into the issue of labelling.

Asda, like many of its competitors, labels all GM products, including oil and lecithin, but they do not stock GM tomatoes. The chain has asked suppliers to tell it whether GM ingredients in own-brand products can be replaced and has set a deadline of the end of next month for replies.

Others ate their words

SEVERAL ministerial reputations and careers have been affected by ill-judged pronouncements on food safety (Mark Inglefield writes).

In 1988, Edwina Currie, then a junior Health Minister, had to resign after she claimed that most of Britain's eggs were infected with salmonella.

Two years on, as concerns over "mad cow" disease grew, John Gummer, then Agriculture Minister, was heavily criticised for feeding a beefburger to his small daughter. "This is delicious and tastes very good," he said. "I have no fears about British beef."

In 1993, Nicholas Soames, the then Food Minister, refused to withdraw from supermarkets beef that had been frozen for six years, claiming that it was "absolutely impossible" for humans to contract BSE.

Lawrence officers to be named as racist

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

AT LEAST a third of the officers facing criticism in the Stephen Lawrence report have been told that they could be accused of racism.

Up to ten officers have been told they may have been guilty of "unintentional" or "subconscious" racism during their handling of the case. All were constables or junior managers involved in the murder incident or the investigation.

One officer has been told that he faces being named as a racist because of his attitudes. He was involved in the initial stages of the case. Another more senior officer has been told he may be accused of "insensitivity".

Yesterday, as Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, chairman of the inquiry, prepared to pass his 550-page report to the Home Office, police sources said that the criticisms had been spelt out in individual letters to the serving and former officers. Some 23 officers were given warnings.

The letters are confidential and gave each officer only an outline of the allegations but not the planned comment. Each officer was then invited to make representations.

When Sir William, a former High Court judge, agreed to send out the letters he ruled that he would not be drawn into a protracted debate. Lawyers for the police officers asked the inquiry for a definition of unconscious racism but received no response.

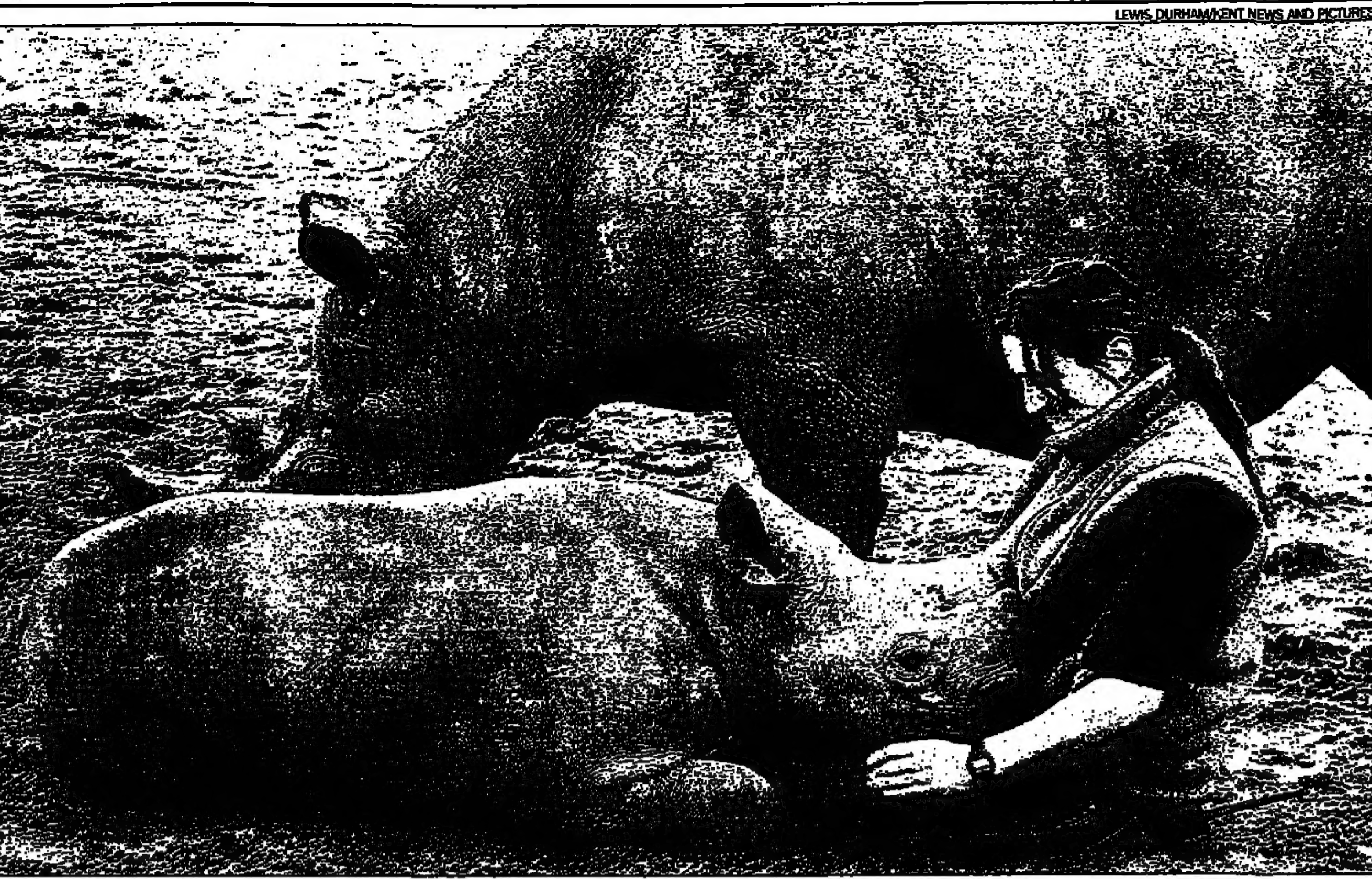
There is already concern in Scotland Yard that the inquiry will draw up a wide new definition of institutional racism that could have ramifications for racial harassment cases both in the police and other professions because it may include "unconscious" racism that could be difficult to substantiate or refute.

Yesterday Scotland Yard denied reports that Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, had also been given a written warning of criticism in the impending report. Sir William was alleged to have told the Commissioner he would be criticised for the way he handled a Scotland Yard review of the murder inquiry.

Sir Paul assured the Lawrences, whose son was stabbed in Eltham, southeast London, that the review showed the investigation had been properly carried out. Sir William was said to be highly critical that Sir Paul accepted a flawed review at face value and gave it his imprimatur.

Last October Sir Paul was questioned about the review by Sir William when he gave evidence on the future policing of race attacks. The Commissioner said he now accepted the review had a devastating effect on the investigation.


Sir William: passing his report to Home Office


Berry White with the most recent arrival, a week-old male black rhino born at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. Two others were born recently

Swapping partners is breeding success

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THREE rare black rhinos have been born at a British wildlife park. It is notoriously difficult to breed the species in captivity but the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent has managed to produce three in five months.

Berry White, head rhino keeper, said that the secret of their success was partly due to the size of the park's herd, which numbers 16 animals. "It means we can chop and change partners. Rhinos are like people, some males and females may not get on," she said. Ms White added that the park also had plenty of space and in the winter flew in pellets from South Africa made from the rhino's favourite food, acacia.

She said they had recently returned a bull bred in captivity to South Africa and hoped to send more back to their native lands. There are just 3,000 wild black rhino in Africa.

Art fraud mastermind is sentenced to six years

By Joanna Bale

A CONMAN who committed the century's biggest contemporary art fraud was jailed for six years yesterday by a judge who told him that he had inflicted immeasurable damage on the art world.

John Drewe, 50, made at least £1 million by fooling dealers, galleries and auctioneers into buying and selling fake modern works painted by John Myatt, a former art teacher who was sentenced to 12 months in prison.

The sketches and paintings were sold with fake provenances which Drewe compiled by contaminating archives in the Tate Gallery and Victoria and Albert Museum.

Drewe showed no emotion as he was sentenced by Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, who told Southwark Crown Court that he had been the "chief architect, organiser and driving force behind a massive fraud". He added: "The evidence in this case reveals you have an extraordinary and alarming talent for manipulating and using other people."

He told the father of two, from Reigate in Surrey, that it was "almost impossible" to determine how much damage he had inflicted on the art world. A deterrent sentence was needed for the one count of conspiracy to defraud, two of forgery and one each of theft and using a false instrument on which he was convicted on Friday. The judge then turned to Myatt, who admitted conspiracy, telling him that his part in the fraud was so "vital and so significant" it was impossible to accede to defence pleas that his prison sentence be suspended. The judge then ordered that more than £18,600 that Myatt had left from his activities be distributed between four collectors who lost thousands of pounds each buying the fakes.

After the pair had left the dock the judge announced that he had ordered papers in the case to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions "for consideration as to whether Drewe has committed further serious offences".

Church steward killed his wife before fatal jump

By Adrian Lee

A DEVOUT Methodist known for being "calm and caring" is believed to have killed his wife with a hammer before throwing himself from a bedroom window and freezing to death.

Police said yesterday that they could find no motive for the attack by Martin Lawrie, who had attended a prayer meeting with his wife, Joan, a few hours earlier. The couple had been together for more than 40 years and Mr Lawrie was steward of the Methodist church in Freeland, near Witney, Oxfordshire.

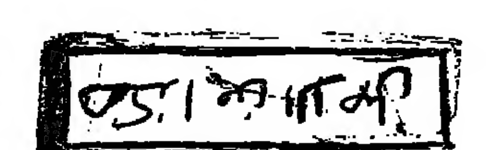
In recent weeks Mrs Lawrie, a retired infant teacher in her late 60s, had spoken of her concern about her husband's failing health and said that she wanted to die before him rather than be left alone.


Joan Lawrie: attacked

Mr Lawrie, a former civil engineer in his early 70s, underwent major heart surgery about two years ago from which he was struggling to recover. Some villagers said they were convinced the deaths were part of a pact.

The couple were last seen alive at 9.30pm last Thursday when a friend dropped them outside their four-bedroom house after a church meeting. On Sunday, a neighbour saw Mr Lawrie lying on a patio. Mrs Lawrie was found dead with severe head injuries.

The couple leave a daughter, who lives in the Manchester area, and son in Australia. The Rev David Freeland, the village's Methodist minister, said: "Martin was very much the lay leader of the congregation. He was a father-figure to others, a very calm and caring man. It is correct to say he was not enjoying good health."



Smokers 'misled' on low-tar advantages

Benefits cut by puffing more and blocking filters, reports Ian Murray

THE tobacco industry misleads smokers about the tar and nicotine that can be inhaled from "light" cigarettes, new research says today.

Some cigarettes without filters, sold as "full flavour", have less than half the nicotine content of brands sold as "ultra light" that were fitted with filters, the study found. In addition, smokers can inhibit filters that are the main device for reducing tar and nicotine inhalation by unconsciously shutting off vent holes.

The study of 92 brands sold in Britain, the United States and Canada was carried out by researchers from University College London, St George's Hospital Medical School, London, and Penn State University, Pennsylvania. Twenty nine of the 37 British brands tested had filter vents.

The researchers said that the tobacco companies' advertisements for low tar and nicotine cigarettes were based on tests conducted with smoking machines, which do not replicate how people smoke.

The machine smokes a range of cigarettes mechanically at the same time. Once a minute it a takes a two-second puff that draws in 35 millilitres of air and smoke from each cigarette until similar butt lengths are reached. The amount of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide drawn through the cigarette are then calculated. The results of these mechanical tests show that, for example, a cigarette that has 80 per cent filter ventilation produces a puff that is 80 per cent air from the vents and 20 per cent undiluted smoke.

The researchers said, however, that in real life smokers tended to block the vents with their lips on short filters or their fingers on long filters.

A study by the tobacco industry found that 45 per cent of people who smoked an ultra-light brand blocked the vents to some degree with their lips, increasing the tar yield by 50 per cent. One smoker in ten at least doubled the tar yield by blocking the vents with their lips, the study said.

Smokers also tended to compensate for lower nicotine yields from light cigarettes by puffing more often. Other factors that determined the rate at which nicotine was absorbed were the porousness of the paper, and chemicals that altered the burn rate of the tobacco.

The scientists said that research was difficult because of the many variables involved. But they say in *Tobacco Control*, a specialist journal for the medical profession, that smokers can and do satisfy their addiction to nicotine from even low-yield brands by closing the filter vents.

"Some cigarettes contain about twice as much nicotine as other brands, indicating that tobacco types or blends and tobacco casings can substantially manipulate nicotine content of cigarettes," the report says.

It also complains that tobacco firms' tests are cloaked in secrecy. "It is lamentable that consumers or scientists routinely know so little about so common a consumer good that causes so much death and disability. The more the cigarette is allowed to be a 'black box' — even to government chemists — the easier it would be to fool most of the people if an unscrupulous manufacturer chose to do so."

WHAT'S YOUR POISON?

The figures show the nicotine content of each cigarette in milligrams and as a percentage of the total weight

Silk Cut Ultra 15.7mg, 2.4%	B&H KS L 13.9, 1.7
B&H UL 14.6, 2.2	Embassy 10.1, 1.6
Silk Cut Extra Mild 10.8, 1.7	John Player Special 11.9, 1.7
John Player KS UL 10.7, 1.7	John Player KS 14.4, 1.7
Lambert & Butler L 11.0, 1.7	Lambert & Butler 13.6, 1.7
Silk Cut 13.8, 1.9	Dorchester 9.0, 1.3
John Player Special L 11.7, 1.8	Berkeley KS 13.3, 1.6
Rothmans L 11.3, 1.7	B&H Special Flt 12.2, 1.6
B&H L 13.3, 1.8	B&H KS 15.2, 1.9
Marlboro L 10.2, 1.7	Regal 10.6, 1.5
Dunhill L 12.4, 1.7	Embassy No 1 12.5, 1.7
Rothman Royal L 14.3, 1.9	Raffles 100 17.5, 2.0
Dorchester Extra Mild 12.2, 1.6	Benington KS 12.2, 1.4
Embassy Mild 11.9, 1.6	Knightsbridge KS 15.9, 1.7
Craven Special Mild 9.9, 1.4	Rothman Royals 13.5, 1.8
Knights Mild 10.2, 1.5	Benington 10.0, 1.4
Consulate Menthol 12.1, 1.5	Marlboro 9.8, 1.3
Berkeley KS L 13.5, 1.6	Rothmans 14.3, 1.8
Berkeley KS Menthol 13.9, 1.7	

(KS = king size; L = light; UL = ultra light)

French sue over toll of cigarettes

LAWYERS for a French health insurer plan to sue cigarette manufacturers, alleging that they are responsible for hundreds of deaths.

The case brought by a branch of a state-run insurance system is the first in France, where smoking remains widely tolerated and socially acceptable. French tobacco companies are also state-run.

The board of the Caisse Primaire d'Assurance Maladie in Saint-Nazaire, near Nantes, did not specify which manufacturers it would be suing in its claim for damages and interest.

Francois Caballero, a lawyer for the health organisation, said that it would be the "civil lawsuit of the century". He added: "It's normal, given the evolution of industrial society, that there be an important trial pitting public health authorities against the tobacco companies." *(AP)*



Norman Cook — alias Fatboy Slim — and the presenter Zoe Ball, his new fiancée

Brighton rock for the hottest couple in pop

By A Staff Reporter

ZOE BALL was ten minutes late for her Radio 1 breakfast show yesterday after she returned from a romantic weekend during which she got engaged on Valentine's Day. She said last night she was "chuffed to pieces" after getting engaged to her pop star boyfriend, Norman Cook.

Her publicist said the couple planned to get married later this year.

The surprise announcement came at the end of Ball's show this morning. Ball, 28, told listeners that her boyfriend — better known under his pop alias Fatboy Slim — proposed on Sunday after her afternoon nap at his seafront home at Hove, East Sussex. He presented her with an engagement ring she dubbed her Brighton rock.

Ball waited for the end of her show to tell listeners: "My boyfriend asked me to marry him yesterday and it is so exciting. I feel completely sick and my stomach's turning over."

A Radio 1 spokesman said: "We expect our presenters to love their music but we didn't expect Zoe to take it quite so literally." Ball spent the day fulfilling prearranged private engagements while Cook was at home. He said: "I'm very happy. I wanted to ask her to marry me because I just love her."

He told the *Brighton Evening Argus*: "She was in bed having a nap and I was a bit worried that Valentine's Day would just come and go. She had been moaning that I had not bought her a present and then I gave her the ring."

The ring is understood to be a diamond that Cook bought from Tiffany's in New York.

The couple will appear together at the Brit Awards in London tonight. Fatboy Slim is in the running for awards as best British male star and best dance act.

The romance has been whirlwind and Cook's proposal came so suddenly that Ball's parents, Johnny and Di, have yet to meet him. "We are both delighted. Everybody tells us he's a wonderful bloke," Mr Ball said yesterday.

LOVE IS ... BY ZOE BALL

Zoe Ball offered her definition of love for listeners to Radio 1 yesterday: "Love to me means being able to fart in front of somebody, to be able to pick your nose in front of somebody, being able to persuade somebody to get up at 5.30am to make you a cup of tea and run a bath, get you dressed and ready for school. Yes, and being able to squeeze your lover's spots."



Ball's "Brighton rock"

Log on to the prayer screen

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

OFFICE workers are being urged to try a ten-minute prayer session in front of their computer screens as an alternative to "giving up the fags or the drink" for Lent.

Jesuit priests in Dublin have launched an Internet prayer service to mark the beginning of Lent tomorrow. They are providing passages of scripture as the basis for the daily devotion.

The site, Sacred Space, also offers suggestions on how to pray and advises on body and breathing exercises in preparation.

Father Alan McGuckian, head of Jesuit communications, said: "A lot of people spend hours at their computer every day and often these same people have difficulty finding the time to pray. So we're bringing the prayer to them."

He said the site differed from existing prayer sites in that "it invites you to pray here and now at your computer". He added: "It guides you step-by-step through the prayer and it offers you something new each day." He recommended it as an alternative to giving up cigarettes or alcohol.

He conceded that some office workers might be reluctant to pray in front of their computers. But he added: "We've done some research and people are reluctant at first but most of them found it worked for them when they tried it."

Senator David Norris, one of Ireland's most prominent Protestants, welcomed the initiative. "I think it very important to spiritualise what can often be merely mechanical information systems," he said.

Sacred Space is found at *www.jesuit.ie/prayer*

IVF ambition of Labour hopeful

Woman hopes to be MSP and treatment pioneer, reports Gillian Harris

A LABOUR candidate for the Scottish parliament disclosed yesterday that she intends to become the first single mother to have a baby by in-vitro fertilisation in Scotland.

Carol Fox, a trade union official, is prepared to pay up to £15,000 to undergo IVF treatment to conceive a second child at a hospital in Edinburgh.

She had to travel to Eastbourne in East Sussex to find a doctor willing to help her to conceive her daughter, Natasha, 6. Ms Fox, 38, who says she has not met a suitable partner, is keen to have her second child fathered by the same anonymous sperm donor that fathered Natasha. At her selection interview to become candidate for Edinburgh West at the Holyrood elections she told Labour Party officials that she had had a child by IVF.

"New Labour has no difficulty with my lifestyle," she told the *Daily Record*. "I was very open and honest about my personal circumstances. Natasha is not some statement I am making to the world, she's a wee human being. I actually put a great deal of thought into it before I had her."

Yesterday Ms Fox won support from Malcolm Chisholm, the former Scottish Office Minister who became the first frontbench spokesman to resign from Tony Blair's Government in 1997 over single-parent benefit cuts. "Carol is a brilliant candidate and a brilliant mother. I'm sure everyone will admire her determination."

But Ms Fox, who works for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, also faced criticism about her decision to have a baby as a single parent.

> 'The important thing is that the child is wanted rather than being born into any recipe or equation of a family'

Ann Allen, the convenor of the Church of Scotland's board of social responsibility, said: "This is a symptom of a consumer society where a child becomes the ultimate accessory. We should not be able to buy children or buy conception."

Mrs Allen said that IVF treatment for single mothers bypassed the commitment of marriage and deprived children of having two parents. "There are couples committed to each other desperate to have a child who have to wait for this treatment because it is so expensive. That should be the priority rather than someone who wants a child without the commitment." However Ms Fox insists that she is as committed to her daughter as any parent.

Ms Fox discovered she had fertility problems when she was 20. A doctor told her that her chances of conceiving naturally were reduced and if she wanted to have a baby she should not waste any time. Without a partner, Ms Fox decided to pursue IVF treatment before it was too late. "This was ten years ago and unfortunately in Scotland at that time it was not possible.

"I met closed doors and unhelpful remarks at every turn so I decided to go to London. I was referred to Harley Street and private medical places. They wouldn't take me because I was not part of a nice middle-class couple. Ultimately I just camped out on the doorstep of a clinic in Eastbourne and I said I was not going away." She had to pay for her treatment because single women are not entitled to receive infertility treatment on the NHS. It took three years, 12 attempts and £15,000 before Natasha was conceived. Now Ms Fox wants another child. She has undergone nine unsuccessful treatments in England but hopes that she will be accepted into an infertility clinic in Scotland.

Ms Fox said: "Women should be able to choose to have a child or not in whatever circumstances. The important thing is that the child is wanted rather than being born into any recipe or equation of a family. I get annoyed when I read articles about designer babies. Anyone who has been through the process doesn't approach it in such a shallow way."

Ms Fox, who works full-time, said that her daughter was looked after by an au pair until she started school in Edinburgh last year. Now she attends an after-school club when her lessons have finished.

If Ms Fox is elected to the Scottish parliament and has another baby, she says she will make appropriate arrangements. "I will ensure that I am organised enough to do both," she said.



IAN TORRANCE

Carol Fox and her daughter, Natasha. Ms Fox wants another child by the same donor

Stolen car back after call from victim

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN who bought a car so that he could visit his girlfriend in hospital had it returned by thieves after he rang them on the mobile telephone that they had taken with it.

Tim Overend needed the elderly Astra to make a 40-mile round trip to see Georgina Hurst, who was in a coma recovering from a bad car accident. One night, after visiting her as usual in St James's Hospital, Leeds, he had come out to find the car had vanished.

He realised his telephone was still in the car so he rang his own number in the hope of talking to the thieves. "I spoke to a lad and I could hear two others shouting in the background. I asked him if he would bring the car back," Mr Overend, 24, said yesterday.

"Which car?" came the reply. "They had stolen three that night," Mr Overend said. "I told him I had to come a long way to the hospital and needed the car to see Georgina." Mr Overend, a plumber, told the man he had taken time off work and bought the car from a friend so he could make the regular trip from his home in Keighley, West Yorkshire.

"I didn't give him any mouth — I just told him and he said he would dump the car in the hospital grounds." Two days later the Astra was found undamaged near the hospital.

Miss Hurst, 25, is now in a convalescent hospital where she is learning to walk again.

Yellow submarine nets fishermen £50,000 bonus

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE crew of a Cornish fishing boat have landed a five-figure sum for salvaging a yellow submarine. The Royal Navy craft was brought in by the trawler *Britannia V* after it came to the surface off the Cornish coast in March 1998.

At first John Leach, the trawler's co-owner, hid the 11ft minisub at a secret location while negotiating with the Navy over his salvage claim. Charles Hattersley, his solicitor, said that experts eventually agreed that the vessel was worth about £200,000.

Mr Hattersley, head of marine law at the Plymouth lawyers Foot and Bowden, was guarded over the exact salvage reward but it is believed to be in the region of 25 per cent of the value of the minisub, or £50,000. The money will be split six ways between the crew and the two co-owners.



John Leach with the salvaged minisub

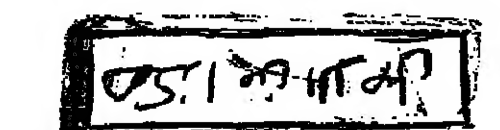
Mr Hattersley said: "All in all we are reasonably satisfied with this settlement. In all the circumstances my client provided a very good service, carrying out a difficult salvage extremely carefully and very professionally.

"He was well within his rights asking for a salvage award and the Navy has finally admitted that." A Ministry of Defence spokesman said it was "pleased that an amicable out-of-court settlement has been reached with Mr Leach's representatives".

Mr Leach said the first he knew of the unusual catch was a call from the boat. "The skipper rang me and said, 'We're alongside of a yellow submarine'. As you can imagine, I said, 'You're having me on'."

Of his negotiations with the Navy, he said: "I wouldn't say I was holding them to ransom. I just wanted to get some sort of salvage fee."

A spokesman for the Navy confirmed that the minisub was a Remote Counter Mine Disposal Submersible that was lost from the minesweeper *HMS Cromer* during a search for the *Margaretha Maria*. Four crewmen died in unexplained circumstances when the Newlyn fishing boat vanished off the French coast in November 1997.



Trimble faces loss of peace accord majority

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

DAVID TRIMBLE'S supporters were last night battling to preserve his slim majority amongst Unionist assembly members before today's key vote to ratify the proposed structure of Northern Ireland's new executive.

At least two members of the First Minister's Ulster Unionist Party were threatening to desert him. That would eliminate for the first time his 30-28 majority over Unionists in other parties who oppose the Good Friday peace accord.

Mr Trimble would still command the 40 per cent support amongst all Unionist members required for this and other major votes, but losing his outright majority would be a serious symbolic blow.

It would inevitably provoke comparisons with the crumbling of Unionist support for Brian Faulkner, Northern Ireland's Prime Minister, before the Sunningdale power-sharing executive collapsed in 1974.

Sources close to Mr Trimble argued that the evident fragility of his support would increase the pressure for IRA disarmament. "If decommissioning was starting you would not have this confidence problem," one said.

Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, claimed that if the majority of Unionists vote against Mr Trimble "he has no more moral power to continue in office".

Today's vote will in principle enable Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to trigger the so-called d'Hondt mechanism dividing the ten ministerial portfolios between the UUP, the nationalist SDLP, the DUP and Sinn Fein. Mr Trimble believes Unionists must take that step so the IRA has no excuse for not disarming. His officials insist Dr Mowlam will not proceed without Unionist consent, and that if she does the UUP can still block the executive's establishment.

One UUP dissident, Peter Weir, confirmed he would vote no. Another, Roy Beggs Jr, may well follow suit; the position of two more is unclear.

Yesterday's passionate debate was coloured by Bertie Ahern's partially-retracted remarks on Sunday in which the Irish Taoiseach asserted that Sinn Fein's entry into the executive would have to be preceded by decommissioning.

Gerry Adams sought to dismiss the remarks, but Mr Trimble told the Assembly: "Whilst the pill was being sugared for some people in the course of the day, don't let them think the issue can be evaded. It cannot."

Leading article, page 21



JUSTIN KERNOGHAN

David Trimble and Gerry Adams keeping their distance at Stormont yesterday

IRA calls halt to beatings

By Martin Fletcher

THE IRA has halted all punishment attacks in Northern Ireland in the face of widespread condemnation and Amnesty International's planned investigation.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said that apart from one possible incident late last week there had been no republican beatings or shootings since February 2. In January there were 17.

The Ulster Volunteer Force has also stopped its attacks, according to Families Against Intimidation and Terror, the human rights group. However, the Ulster Defence Association and other smaller loyalist groups have carried out 15 beatings and shootings this month.

Politicians said the IRA's cessation showed that republican leaders had the power to stop when it suited them, and that the IRA was susceptible to outside pressure.

Conservatives and Unionists have seized on the attacks to challenge Sinn Fein's commitment to exclusively democratic means, and to demand that prisoner releases be halted. Amnesty International announced its investigation on February 3. Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has privately admonished Sinn Fein and the loyalist political parties.

"If at last Sinn Fein-IRA is recognising the unacceptability of mutilation beatings and are responding to public opinion, that's a major step forward," said Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary who first raised the issue in the Commons.

Harry Barnes, a senior Labour backbencher who had called for prisoner releases to be suspended, said the IRA had been "shamed by people power into stopping barbaric beatings". He added: "If the IRA can stop breaking limbs they can start to decommission."

Vincent McKenna, Fait's spokesman, said of the IRA and UVF: "Public and international pressure has now got to the two terrorist organisations who have a political investment in the assembly. They realise they can't have one foot in the corridor of democracy and the other in the alleyway of murder and mutilation."

Tories are Samaritan party, says Hague

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE claimed yesterday that the Conservatives would become the party of the "Good Samaritan" as he said it was time to move to a new, caring agenda.

In his first big speech since his visit to meet George W. Bush Jr, the Governor of Texas famous for his "compassionate conservatism", the Tory leader said that people were now looking for a change in the Conservative Party. "There is a rising concern about national identity, about community, about order, about the work ethic, about self-discipline, about civility," Mr Hague told Ontario Conservatives in Toronto.

The Tories would respond to this "values agenda" by giving people and communities more power and not letting "small elites" create international institutions that only they can influence, Mr Hague said.

Referring to the Good Samaritan parable he said: "The Conservative Party is not going to walk on the other side. We are going to reach out."

Mr Hague said it was vital to start out by listening and understanding. "And from this base we are going to recapture from the Left the words like caring, like compassion, like fairness, words that they, with decades of failed social policy behind them, simply do not deserve to monopolise."

Mr Hague said it was Margaret Thatcher who pointed out that if the Good Samaritan had not been a wealthy man he would not have been able to help the poor victim. "She was absolutely right," Mr Hague said. "My determination is to ensure that when the Samaritan is wealthy he doesn't cross by on the other side of the street. My Conservative Party is going to reach out."

Michael Gove, page 20

Maude attacks 'stealth' taxes

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

THE Tories called Gordon Brown a "pickpocket Chancellor" as they launched a campaign yesterday to highlight what they called Labour's hidden £40 billion tax rises.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed the Government had in successive Budgets imposed tax increases on cars, petrol, tobacco, pensions, insurance and house-buying. He demanded improved price labelling to show consumers how much of their spending on petrol, cigarettes and alcohol went in tax.

He also called for the Inland Revenue to send every taxpayer an annual statement of how much they have paid in income tax and national insurance. Mr Maude, who is planning a long campaign against "stealth taxes", accused Labour of breaking its pre-election promise not to increase taxation.

He published figures from the Commons library showing projected indirect tax increases worth more than £40 billion by the next election.

Downing Street denied that the tax increases were secret. "We are confident that people are significantly better off as a result of the policies taken over the last two years."



Maude: produced figures showing £40bn tax rises

Morgan in poll position in Wales

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

RHODRI MORGAN'S position as the people's favourite to become leader of the Labour Party in Wales and First Secretary of the Welsh assembly has been confirmed by a new opinion poll.

More people back the MP for Cardiff West for the leadership than support Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, and even more said they would vote Labour in the assembly elections if Mr Morgan was chosen for the top job.

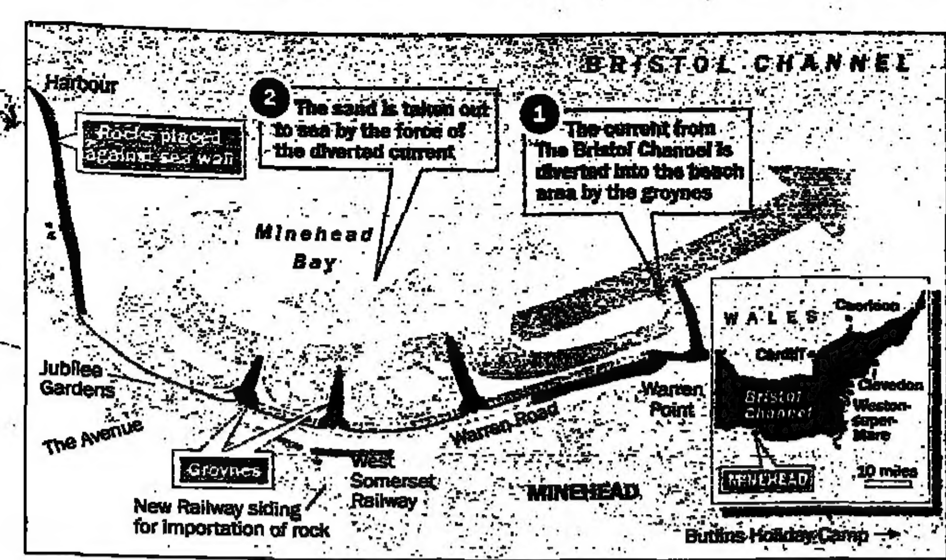
Fifty-five per cent supported Mr Morgan as Welsh party leader compared with 16 per cent for Mr Michael, Tony Blair's preferred choice. Among Labour voters, Mr Morgan's support was 57 per cent compared with 19 per cent for Mr Michael.

If Mr Morgan led the Labour Party for the assembly elections, some 64 per cent would vote Labour, compared with 55 per cent if Mr Michael was Welsh party leader.

The Labour Party retains a commanding lead in Wales but it is clear that more people will vote for Plaid Cymru than at the general election. There is little comfort in the HTV/NOP poll for the Conservatives, who appear to have gained little ground since losing all their Welsh seats at the last election.

According to the telephone poll of 1501 voters, the Welsh Nationalist Party, led by Dafydd Wigley, is set to double its vote from 10 per cent at the general election to 20 per cent. This would almost guarantee a Plaid win at Carmarthen East, held for Labour at Westminster by Alan Williams. This is also the seat Labour has calculated it must lose for Mr Michael to be elected on the proportional representation list for Mid and West Wales. There is also evidence that people might be prepared to switch for their second vote on the PR list, with Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats expected to pick up the votes.

Sands run out for seaside resort



Shortage of cash leaves Somerset coastal works half finished, reports Simon de Bruxelles

THE Somerset resort of Minehead may never have been able to guarantee sunshine to go with the sea but it could always boast of its sands. A golden carpet stretched as far as the eye could see when the waters of the Bristol Channel retreated at low tide.

But the resort is fast losing the principal ingredient of a traditional bucket-and-spade holiday. A £12.7 million coastal defence scheme is stripping Minehead's beaches of their sand, leaving the town's tourist industry in turmoil.

Instead of sand, guests at the nearby Butlin's holiday camp, together with hundreds of visitors to seafront guest-houses, will find themselves crossing vast expanses of clay and rock-strewn mud to get to the water this summer. Plans by the Environment Agency to bring in thousands of tonnes of sand have been postponed because of a shortage of funds.

The coastal defence scheme was instigated by the agency two years ago after sections of a 1.8-mile sea wall were wrecked by storms in 1995. Phase one was to raise the sea wall by half a metre and build four long groynes to reduce the impact of incoming waves. More than 100,000 tonnes of boulders, some weighing 20 tonnes, were taken from the Mendip hills and laid in lines leading out into the bay. A network of steps and ramps was built from the promenade down to the sands.

The work was successfully completed ahead of schedule in June last year but had an unexpected effect on tidal movements. The strong currents coursing through the Bristol Channel have been diverted by the groynes, scouring the sand from the beach and washing it out to sea.

The problem might have been solved if phase two of the scheme, to extend the existing beach with 300,000 tonnes of sand and shingle dredged from the bottom of the Bristol Channel, had gone ahead as planned. The work was to have been completed by April but the Environment Agency now says it cannot afford the £2.5 million cost before the holiday season, during which 600,000 holidaymakers normally contribute to the town's £90 million tourist trade.

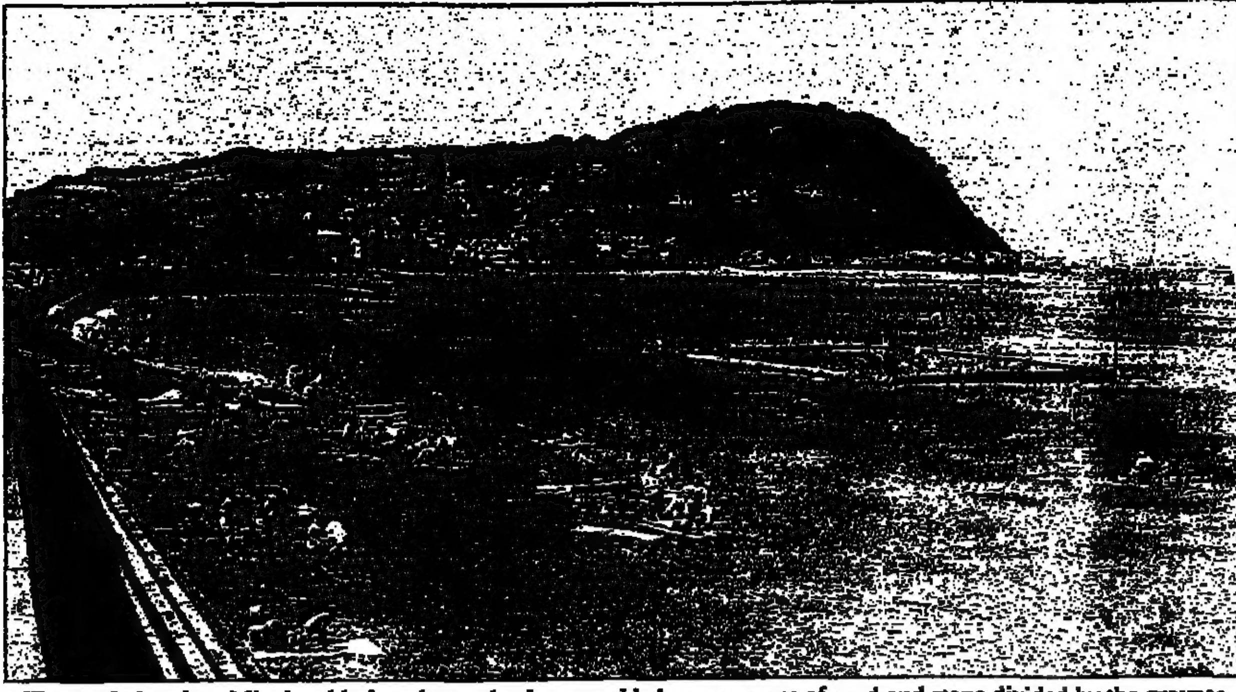
Yesterday furious civic groups and hoteliers said the scheme had turned the pretty seaside town into a "battlefield". Chris Dyer, a spokesman for the civic pressure group West Somerset Watchdogs, said: "The new sand was meant to be put in straight away but we have been left in limbo. The tourists who come here and want to use the beach are not going to be happy. The beach changes every day but there is very little sand left and it is not being put back. We need a beach that is attractive, not just a sea defence system."

So much sand has been washed away that there are gaps between the bottom of the new steps and the beach. Kevin Escott, secretary of Minehead lifeboat station, said: "It's a disgrace. There are huge clumps of black clay and if children play in them they are going to get filthy. They have done a good job of the sea wall but we were promised the sand by the summer and this has come as a bit of a blow. The sand was the icing on the cake but now the place looks like a battlefield."

It was hoped that the defence scheme would rejuvenate West Somerset, where 60 per cent of jobs rely on holidaymakers. It coincided with a £40 million facelift of Butlin's Somerwest World.

Malcolm Higgins, who runs the Wyndcott Hotel, said: "We had hoped to remarket Minehead this summer but nobody seems to know when the sand is arriving, which is causing some concern to us. There is sand in some places but in other places there is none at all. It will not make a good impression."

The Environment Agency is now in talks with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which was to have funded a large part of the project.



The sandy beach at Minehead before the work, above, and below, expanses of mud and stone divided by the groynes

CHRIS ISON



Martin Weiler, the agency's southwest spokesman, said: "It was always our intention, and still is, to complete the project by the summer. However, funding problems have arisen. We do not have the funds we would like. We have raised this with MAFF but we cannot give any guarantees."

He insisted that there was no danger of the "new" beach being washed back out to sea like the old one.

He added: "The groynes were put in place to stop the new beach moving. The beach will be much higher and the waves will break earlier. It is a whole different set of dynamics." John Loveless, a senior lecturer in the department of civil engineering at Bristol University and an expert in tide management, said: "The groynes are diverting the tidal currents from further out in the bay.

"They are swept into the bay and because they are stronger they pick up more sediment from the sea floor. It is a bit like opening an umbrella in a wind tunnel, you create diversions of the flow. If the groynes are virtually buried by the new sand I think this may be avoided but if I had designed the system I would not have built them so high."

NEWS IN BRIEF

All-British balloon set for lift-off

The only all-British round-the-world ballooning team is expected to lift off in Spain tonight in spite of a ban on them flying over China. Andy Elson, the co-pilot and engineer from Wells, Somerset, has strapped two tonnes of kerosene to the *Cable and Wireless* balloon's side to have a chance of enduring a long detour south of the country.

Noye appeal

Kenneth Noye, wanted in Britain for questioning over the M25 "road rage" killing, has appealed against his extradition from Spain. Pelayo Hornillos, Mr Noye's lawyer, said his client contended that he had been illegally identified.

Man sought

Police want to question Phillip Poole-Warren, 42, after two women were raped in Milton Keynes. He is between 5ft 10in and 6ft 2in, bald on top with thinning blond hair, protruding ears and scars on his skull, nose and arms.

Police call

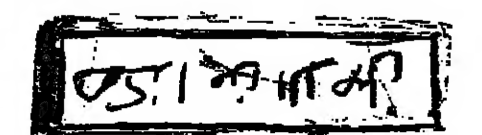
A search for five Manchester policemen who spent a night lost in the snow on Creag Meagaidh in the Highlands was halted after they reached a farmhouse and called local police on 999. They were later picked up by helicopter.

Pack of trouble

Linda McCartney's vegetarian sausage rolls have been criticised for excess packaging in a survey by trading standards officers, prompted by new rules that carry fines up to £5,000. McVitie's, the maker, said the packs met the guidelines.

Leading question

Dog owners exaggerate the friendships made through their pets, says Glyn Collis, a psychologist at Warwick University. In a survey, 40 per cent said they made friends in chats on walks but they could not name the people they met.



Albright under fire in peace talks

EU irritation with US fuelled by advice to Kosovo rebels, reports Tom Walker from Rambouillet

EUROPEAN diplomats in Paris accused Madeleine Albright yesterday of having a poor understanding of the Kosovo problem after the US Secretary of State suggested to an ethnic Albanian negotiator that he should adopt Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, as a role model.

American officials rushed to smooth over any controversy, but the remark served to draw out European discontent at the heavy-handed American push behind the Kosovo peace talks. "Quite honestly, she's been unimpressive on the details," said one European Union source involved in setting up Ms Albright's whirlwind weekend inspection of proceedings at Rambouillet and her meetings with EU and Contact Group ministers.

"It's clear that she hasn't grasped the full deal under discussion, but having said that, she has massive clout — she's the one who can say to the Serbs, 'sign this, or we'll bomb the hell out of you'."

> ‘She can say, sign this or we'll bomb the hell out of you’

The backlash against Ms Albright came after her briefing late on Sunday to journalists following the Contact Group press conference. She described how she took aside Hashim Thaci, the Kosovo Liberation Army's 29-year-old negotiating leader, and told him Mr Adams's metamorphosis from a champion of armed struggle to a proponent of peaceful dialogue was an example to follow.

American officials said Ms Albright had tried to charm both sides: she had reminded Serb leaders of her Belgrade childhood, and of how her Czech diplomat father, who loved Serb songs, had said that, if he had not been born Czech, he would have liked to have been Serb.

It was the Adams comment, however, that sparked a diplomatic fluster. "I can't imagine why it would raise hackles," protested a US diplomat close to the talks. "We're just trying to suggest that people who have abandoned military means and turned to political goals is right in line with what will succeed here. We're not trying to draw any direct comparisons with Northern Ireland, although there are similarities in the decommissioning of weapons that we want in Kosovo.

"We need to look for models, and Dayton and Bosnia may not be as good as other examples elsewhere in Europe ... Look at the Good Friday agreement: we have to explain the process to the KLA in whatever way we can. We're trying to tell them that they don't have to stay out in the forests with their guns."

Any aptness of the comparison was lost on KLA representatives outside the talks, who yesterday were busy setting up an official Rambouillet office to keep in satellite contact with events in Kosovo. "The KLA is considered like an army by the Kosovan people and it will stay like that. It won't become a Sinn Fein," said Pleurat Sejdiu, the KLA's political representative for foreign relations. "We are in talks with the high command and it would be wrong to disarm the KLA now."

The talks were beset by problems yesterday as President Milutinovic of Serbia reiterated his Government's opposition to the proposed Nato-led Kfor peace implementation force, and the Albanians tabled a proposal that the KLA be transformed into a "national guard" to operate alongside a Kosovo ethnically representative police force.

Negotiators were encouraged, however, by Russia's agreement to turn a blind eye to military discussions, and to allow Nato to be written into security annexes to the peace agreement. Russia will not be party to any annexe giving details of the implementation force, but diplomats insisted it remained united with the five Contact Group partners on the overall peace plan.

PETER MUELLER



Fourteen British Challenger tanks are transported by rail to be loaded onto the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel, *Sea Centurion*, at the German port of Emden yesterday for peacekeeping duties in Kosovo, as confidence grew within Nato that a deal between the Serbs and ethnic Albanians will be signed by the end of this week. British military personnel also loaded 17 Warrior armoured fighting vehicles, 34 Scimitar command and reconnaissance vehicles and 27 other armoured vehicles of the Royal Engineers

Life in death's shadow for family in no man's land

Anthony Loyd in Obrance witnesses the daily fight for survival of villagers caught in the Kosovo crossfire

NO MAN'S LAND is transformed from stillness to chaos in an instant. One second a group of villagers is stepping cautiously down a country lane between Serb and Kosovo Liberation Army positions, the fields silent; the next the bullwhip crack of gunfire catalyses the scene into one of frantic flight.

Two girls are caught out by the shooting on open ground. They run at first, the bullets flying around them. A man, a relative, is shouting at them from a house beyond, telling them to get down. They dive and flounder around, but the fire puffs up the snow by their legs so they rise again.

From the sanctuary of an armoured Land Rover I am watching them with the detached curiosity of the very safe. I wonder how they feel. I wonder how the man feels, staring helplessly at the unfolding drama. They live.

Obrance, their village, straddles KLA and Serb front lines half a mile outside Podujevo, about 16 miles north of Pristina. Of all the houses in Obrance, the home of these two girls, members of the Uka family, appears to be in the worst possible place: detached from others, in the middle of a barren field, flanked on two sides by Serb troops, on a third by the KLA.

"Since September last year we've always been afraid and under pressure here," explained Have, at 20 the elder of the two girls. "We are fearful even to go in our garden."

"What you saw was not so bad. Three times before it has been even worse than that," said Smajl, their cousin, the man I saw urging them to cover. He laughs, but it is a hollow sound. "It is hard. A man can't help in a situation such as you saw. I have no weapon and could do nothing."

All seven members of the family have become experts in the domestic variations of gunfire. Tank and shellfire they rate as the worst — it killed three men in one go from their village.

There is not much to do each day. Once they have seen their father and one brother run across the fields to get to work each morning, relaxing until it is time for them to try the route home again, the young hang around, talk and smoke, waiting for the day when they can do something simple, like walk down the garden path without fear of getting killed.

French charge friend of terrorist leader

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A FRENCHMAN believed to be a close associate of the Islamic militant millionaire Osama bin Laden, who is wanted in connection with the bombing of two US Embassies in East Africa last August, was arrested on January 18 at the Gare du Nord as he boarded a Eurostar train for London, it was learnt yesterday.

Ahmed Laidouni, 30, who is French of Algerian parentage, has been charged with criminal association with a terrorist enterprise, police said. They insisted that M Laidouni had "no direct link" with the bombing of the embassies in Nairobi and Arusha, which the US claims were organised and financed by bin Laden, and his exact connection with the Saudi dissident was not clear.

Born in Montfermeil in the northern suburbs of Paris, M Laidouni was a petty criminal before joining the Muslim side during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war as a mercenary.

He is believed to have attended weapons and explosives training camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He visited London last year to obtain visas for those countries. Europe 1 radio said yesterday that his arrest was prompted by the CIA, which had supplied France with a list of suspects who had undergone training in the camps.

He was sought by the anti-terrorist judge, Jean-Louis Bruguière, in connection with an investigation into forged documents.

When he was arrested, M Laidouni was carrying coded information that investigators are trying to crack.

Bin Laden, who was indicted in the United States in connection with the embassy bombings which killed 274 people, was yesterday reported to be hiding in Afghanistan after being snubbed by the Taleban's leader.

BALDUR SVEINSSON



Iceland's role as a base for B52s guarding Nato's forward defences has diminished

Iceland finally warms to its Cold War role

Michael Binyon reports from Reykjavik on fears over Nato base's future

THE end of the Cold War is producing shivers in Nato's coldest country. Iceland, the alliance's smallest member, fears that Nato will pull out of its once vital base in Keflavik, leaving Iceland defenceless.

Suddenly Icelanders, who once held regular demonstrations against the American presence, forbade Washington to send black servicemen to the island, and banned US troops from Reykjavik for fear that they would seduce Icelandic girls, are desperate to block any proposed cuts.

Iceland has discovered a new love for Nato. Politicians praise the base and visit its commanders. Ordinary people who once held up placards to denounce visiting ships are on the quayside to welcome Nato visitors into town. And the tiny country that once flirted with pacifism and neutralism is now among the most enthusiastic supporters of the Nato alliance.

The reason is simple. Without the "Iceland Defence Force", as the US garrison is called, the wealthy island with a population of 270,000 would be defenceless. It is not the unlikely prospect of a foreign invasion that frightens people, but the threat that a terrorist group could hold the country to ransom. Without a credible armed force of its own, Iceland, which was once the host of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, could never stage an international summit again.

The Americans man a base that once played a vital role in patrolling the North Atlantic, securing the strategic approaches to Europe and hunting Soviet submarines in the waters of the Arctic.

But now the submarines are tied up in port, the probing flights into the Nato airspace have stopped and the Russians are themselves party to Nato deliberations. Keflavik, already ranked on the lowest Nato priority, is now vulnerable as US senators, fearful that Pentagon cuts would close employment-giving bases in their home states, point to possible closures overseas.

The defence agreement is open-ended, and Iceland and America have signed an agreement guaranteeing the future of the base until 2001. But already the forces are being run down. There were once 3,000 US Navy and Air Force personnel in this mixed-force base; now there are only 2,000, and other Nato diplomats believe the US Air Force may pull out altogether.

The economic consequences would be severe. The base — which also houses Iceland's international airport — provides about 10 per cent of the country's foreign exchange. An increasing number of Icelandic civilians are employed on maintenance contracts, as auxilliaries and suppliers.

Politicians, who once shunned contact with the base or demanded its closure at public rallies, now dwell on its vital role guarding America's forward defences. "I am sure they will stay, whatever happens," one minister insisted. Senior officers at Keflavik play down any threat of closure: the base is now fully integrated into the local community, carries out 300 rescue operations a year, hosts regular exercises and offers Nato vital training in marine and air patrols. Above all, the officers say, Washington would hardly risk pulling out in the hope that Russia will remain stable and knowing how difficult it would then be to come back.

The pro-Keflavik movement has made things easier for the soldiers. The restriction on blacks has long disappeared. Troops have been allowed into the capital — though not in uniform — for a decade. Icelanders are less fearful of a Yankee invasion overwhelming them.

But no one is predicting what will happen after 2001. Only a new Russian threat could really revive Keflavik's role as one of a girdle of bases guarding the North Atlantic.

Racist murder trial forces Texans to face their past

Unwelcome media spotlight falls on sleepy town of Jasper, Damian Whitworth writes

Bill King leaves Jasper County Courthouse in a bulletproof vest and shackles during jury selection, which took several weeks

A FEW days ago the people of Jasper in east Texas gathered at the town cemetery and tore down the iron fence that had separated the graves of black people from those of white, dividing the population even in death for as long as people had been buried there.

It was an attempt to show the world that not all residents of this little town are racist murderers. It came too late to save them from occupying their own grim chapter in the bloody history of American race relations.

In Jasper County Court House today, a white supremacist will be the first of three defendants to go on trial for a killing as horrible as any in recent memory. Bill King was one of a drunken trio who picked up James Byrd, a 49-year-old unemployed black man, as he was hitch-hiking home in the early hours of a June morning last year. They are accused of giving him a vicious beating, then chaining him to the back of a pick-up truck and dragging him along rough roads to an agonising death.

"Not only was he alive, he was conscious at that time and he was using his elbows and his body in every manner that he could to keep his head and shoulders away from the pavement," James Gray, Jasper County District Attorney, told the court during jury selection.

The body was "swinging out right and left like a boat pulling a skier" until it hit something and his head and right arm were sliced off.

When police traced the bloody route, not hard to follow, they found Byrd's torso a mile further on, dumped in the middle of Huff Creek Road next to an old black cemetery. "They chose to leave that body in front of a black cemetery as some form of message," Mr Gray said.

Mr King, 24, who has been described as the ringleader, denies the killing, saying it was another of the three accused flatmates, Shawn Allen Berry, 23. Mr Berry blames Mr King and the third friend, Lawrence Brewer, and says that he tried to stop the murder. The prosecution claims that the blood of the dead man was found on the shoes of all three.





RON JAAP

James Byrd Jr, who was dragged to death last June; his parents James Sr and Stella Byrd at his grave; and the back of Shawn Berry's pick-up truck, which it is alleged was used to kill him

Mr King and Mr Brewer appear to be deeply committed to white supremacism. They are heavily tattooed with Ku Klux Klan symbols and swastikas and have been linked to a group called Aryan Brotherhood, which advocates violence. In prison awaiting trial, they have joined the Confederate Knights of America. Mr King has forsworn baptism for the pagan worship of Odinism. He has not been a happy prisoner: he has talked of suicide, threatened his guards and been caught trying to make weapons.

During earlier hearings he had to be kept under control in the courtroom with an electric belt capable of immobilising him with a 50,000 volt shock. He has written letters to area newspapers claiming that he should not be prejudged. He closed one: "Still white and proud." Until the gruesome murder Jasper was so out of the way in this unprepossessing corner of Texas and so unheard of that its only claim to fame was that General Custer once bivouacked here on his way back from the Civil War in 1865.

It is a poor town, with a conspicuous number of rundown shacks, where everyone does seem to know everyone. Jury selection took weeks as prospective jurors were released



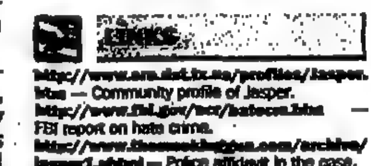
because they had once taught the defendant or employed him to fix the roof.

Over a breakfast of bacon, eggs and grits in Texas Charlie's diner yesterday, one good old boy in old sneakers and a slightly grubby bomber jacket gave a tired smile. "We just want to get this over," he said. "Now I better not say any more — I'm the judge trying the case."

Judge Joe Bob Golden, known to everyone in the town where he has lived for nearly 40 years as "Joe Bob", has remained remarkably calm as the world's eyes turned to his little 19th-century courthouse. He has arranged for a hall to have an audio relay from the court for the huge media contingent, and he is overseeing tight security.

Last summer, after the murder, there was an angry clash in Jasper between the New Black Panthers and Klansmen. The Panthers, planning a show of strength today, have been banned from coming within two blocks of court.

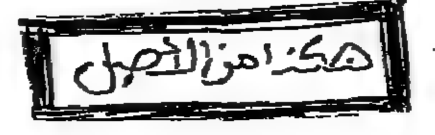
The Byrd family say they have forgiven his killers. "Why should I hate in return? That would be what the men who killed my dad did, and I'm not like them," said Jamie, 17, his daughter. But they will not forget. Nor, it seems certain, will America or the rest of the world forget Jasper. "A small town — not to mention an entire nation — is forced to look deep inside at the most undesirable parts of itself and come to grips with ugly traits many thought had long since been left behind by social evolution, but are most obviously still deeply embedded," said Michael Journee, managing editor of the *Jasper NewsBoy*.



— Community profile of Jasper.

— FBI report on hate crime.

— Police affidavit in the case.



Trail in French forest murder takes new twist

Double killing has baffled police for years, Susan Bell writes in Paris

THE mystery of the Fontainebleau fiancé murders — one of France's most notorious unsolved crimes, which has baffled police for more than a decade — took another unexpected turn when a law student who confessed to the crime on Saturday retracted his confession yesterday.

Cedric Mabille, 28, a student of criminology, was arrested on Thursday evening and confessed to the murder of Gilles Naudet, 25, and Anne-Sophie Vandamme, 24. His father, Jean, a retired airline pilot, and a family friend known to be a poacher were also arrested and placed under investigation for murder. M Mabille, from Gironville near Fontainebleau, is a known poacher obsessed with guns and military uniform who abandoned his training as a gunsmith to study law.

As police congratulated themselves on having finally caught the murderer, M Mabille, who gave several accounts of the killing over the weekend, some of which implicated his father, yesterday denied committing the murder, saying he was in another part of the country at the time.

In October 1988, the engaged couple had packed a picnic and set off from their home in Versailles for a romantic stroll through the forest of Fontainebleau with their dog, Dundee. They never returned.

In December 1989 a medium directed police to the site where the bodies were eventually found. A patrol searched the area but found nothing.

It was not until January 10 that the bodies of the lovers and their dog were discovered by a forest warden. The remains were concealed in a shallow grave in a lonely part of the woodland. The couple had been shot, Naudet four times and his fiancée with a single bullet to the back of the head. Dundee, a Pyrenean mountain dog, had also been shot. The bullets all came from .22 sporting rifles. A silencer of the type used by poachers was found near by.

Forensic science evidence showed that two rifles had been used, suggesting that the murders were the work of more than one person.

The case became a *cause célèbre* which took on surreal proportions as investigators followed up bizarre leads. Suspects ranged from latter-day Druids, a Portuguese gardener, and a family of Spanish poachers to a couple who regularly laid flowers on the site where the bodies were found.

Investigators concentrated on a terrorist link after police discovered a cache of explosives and drugs buried near where the bodies were found.

Investigators became mired in thousands of statements from suspected poachers, hunters, gamekeepers and gun enthusiasts. Gendarmes say they have worked on the case for 200,000 hours and collected 20 volumes of testimony.

The detective in charge of the investigation, Dominique Bellanger, even spent three weeks camping on the site where the bodies were found to soak up the atmosphere.

A breakthrough came last year when police obtained a powerful computer from the Canadian police capable of analysing thousands of pages of testimony and identifying possible contradictions. In January last year, gendarmes arrested 13 people connected to a poaching ring in the forest on suspicion of murder. Eighteen rifles and pistols were seized, but no charges were brought connected to the case.

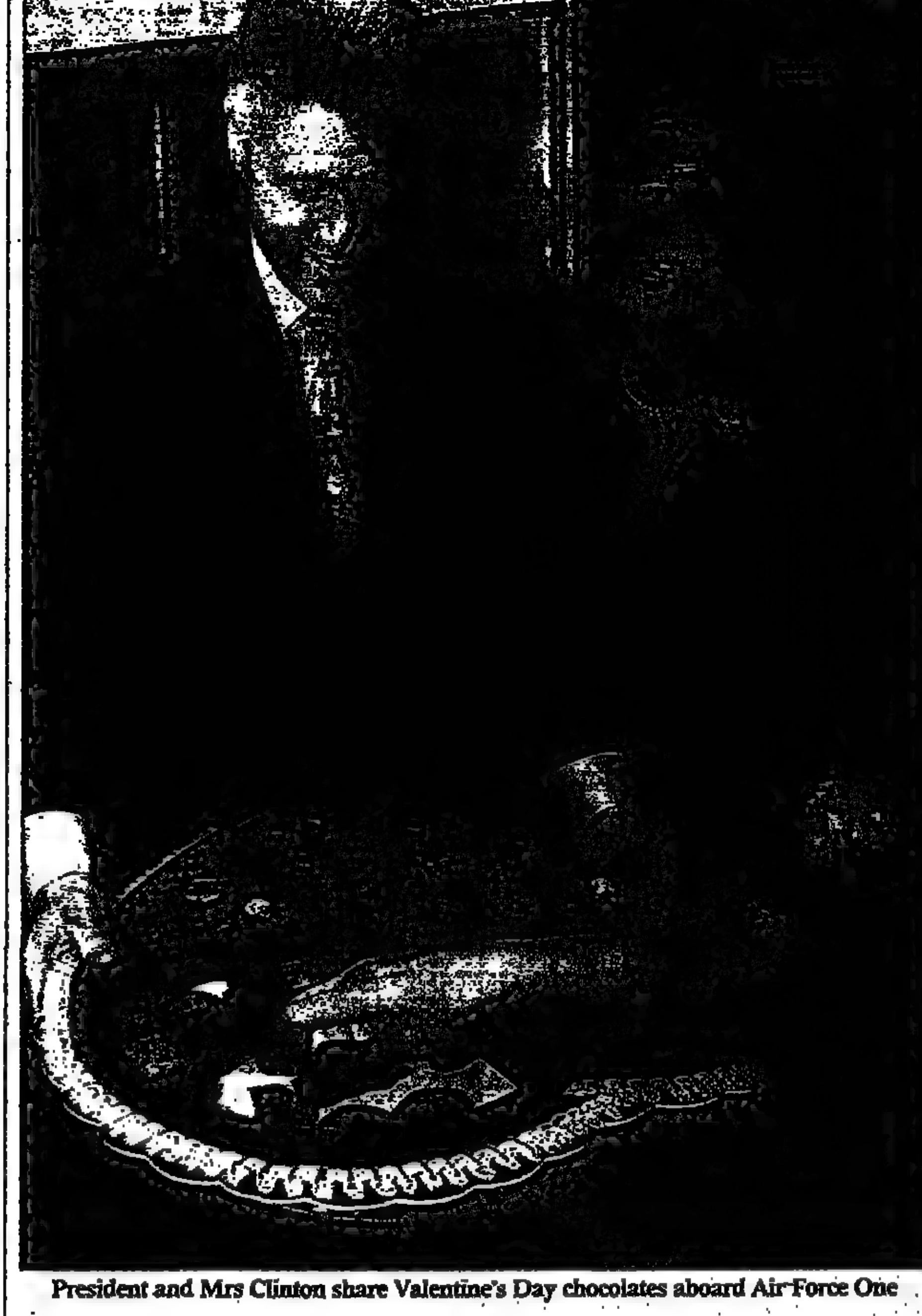
The motive for the murders is not clear, but it is believed that the lovers may have followed a woodland path left by deer and were unaware that poachers were lying in wait.

Investigators say that Dundee was the same size and colour as a young deer. It is thought that the murderer may have mistaken the dog for a doe and killed it, and then murdered the couple to prevent them calling police.



Gilles Naudet and Anne-Sophie Vandamme: they vanished while on a picnic in Fontainebleau forest

PAUL J. RICHARDS / AFP



President and Mrs Clinton share Valentine's Day chocolates aboard Air Force One

Hillary's Valentine sweetener

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

FOR a year talk was of gifts between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, but now it was Hillary's turn. The First Lady wore a gold, heart-shaped brooch on Valentine's Day. Asked if it was new, she replied: "Brand new."

Then she pointed to her husband and smiled. His specially made gift was a tangible emblem of affection after weeks of reports that he was working on repairing the marriage and she was still having outbursts of anger towards him.

His gesture came as Mrs Clinton was preparing to sit down with Democrats urging her to run for the Senate from New York — an idea she has so far not decided to accept. She was wearing the brooch as the couple made a rare visit to Air Force One's press section during a flight to the Yucatán peninsula for a 24-hour summit with Mexican leaders on drugs and trade. It was the first time the President had left the White House since his acquittal on last Friday.

The White House press office refused to say how much he had paid for the brooch because it was a private gift.

Mr Clinton also gave Monica Lewinsky a brooch during her time at the White House, although he said in his grand jury evidence that he could not remember doing so. A valuer in Washington estimated its value at $5 (£3).

WORLD IN BRIEF

Britain imposes arms embargo

Britain yesterday announced an immediate arms embargo on Ethiopia and Eritrea while publicly deploring the resumption of fighting between them (Michael Binyon writes). Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister for Africa, told Parliament that it would be a criminal offence to sell arms to either side, and called on both countries to restore the ceasefire and resume talks on a settlement within the framework of the Organisation of African Unity. Last week the United Nations Security Council urged countries not to sell arms to either side, but did not impose a full embargo.

Miners' leader jailed

Bucharest: Romania's Supreme Court jailed Miron Cozma, the miners' leader, for 18 years on charges over 1991 riots that toppled the Government. The ruling — replacing a served 18-month sentence by a lower court — shocked the country. Three weeks ago Cozma led a violent march that ended after he negotiated with Radu Vasile, the Prime Minister. Police may have trouble rearresting Cozma, who claims the courts are under political influence. He had a hero's welcome on returning from jail to his Jiu Valley powerbase. *(Reuters)*

'Bomber' blown up

Madrid: Fears that a summer bombing campaign would wreak havoc on the Costa Blanca receded after a pensioner blew himself up with a home-made explosive device on the beach at Salou, eastern Spain (Giles Tremlett writes). Police said yesterday that the victim, Juan Sarmiento, 63, almost certainly was behind extortion letters sent to Salou and other resorts in recent weeks. The letters had threatened to carry out bomb attacks unless payments of up to £500,000 were made.

Reagan's face value



Los Angeles: Republican efforts to memorialise Ronald Reagan will take a leap forward next week with a proposal to carve his likeness into Mount Rushmore, above, beside other former US Presidents in South Dakota's Black Hills (Giles Whittell writes). The National Park Service claims that the monument is cracking and will not withstand more drilling.

Letters of the law

Manila: A Filipino couple's attempt to give their child a name with 2,222 letters was blocked by the Justice Department on the ground that it would cause confusion. Giving a child a name "cannot be arbitrarily or whimsically exercised, as the adoption of names [illegible] public interest", a ruling said. The proposed name was not disclosed. *(AFP)*


One of the Kurds who set himself ablaze

Kurds in fiery protest survive

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

THREE Kurds attempted to burn themselves to death yesterday during a demonstration in central Athens calling for Greece to give political asylum to the fugitive Kurdish guerrilla leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who is sought by Turkey.

All three survived as police guarding the demonstration used the fire extinguishers they had with them. The three doused themselves with petrol and set themselves on fire just as riot police were moving in to disperse the demonstration. Two were reported to be badly burnt.

Jumpy start to Year of Rabbit

James Pringle in Hong Kong reports on China's sense of gloom as the lunar new year dawns

CHINESE around the world will today celebrate the lunar festival, ushering in the Year of the Rabbit. In the ancient Chinese zodiac the rabbit is regarded as an easy-going animal, promising good fortune, peace and plenty for the year ahead.

But at a time when the Chinese leadership is increasingly nervous over a worrying economic situation and growing joblessness that could spark social unrest, this year's celebrations are muted at best. Few Chinese feel there is much to cheer about in this most important of traditional festivals.

On the eve of the new year yesterday, there was a sense of restiveness over much of this vast country of 1.3 billion and the downbeat mood has spread to Hong Kong, where the festive spirit is decidedly lacking. Record unemployment has beset Hong Kong and the former colony is experiencing its worst recession in more than a generation.

On the mainland, Beijing has stepped up a campaign against political dissent as the leadership struggles to keep a lid on discontent spurred by rising unemployment with the reform of loss-making state-run industries, unpaid salaries and rising crime. While the attitude of most Chinese appears to be one of resignation rather than revolution over frustrated hopes of prosperity and anger at corruption, grumbling is widespread.

Some pundits believe that China will muddle through this troubled year, but others believe that the situation could spiral out of control. "Either things will stabilise or there will be complete disaster," said one foreign commercial counsellor. "The leadership is clearly frightened," added a foreign diplomat.

President Jiang has twice given warnings in the past three months that dissident activity would be "resolutely nipped in the bud", and he coupled this with a rigorous crackdown that shocked China's American and European partners who had been pursuing a dialogue on human rights.

The situation has been exacerbated by a recent wave of bomb blasts that has killed 31 people and injured more than 100. Police blame the explosions on criminals or would-be suicides, but Hong Kong human rights groups claim the incidents are linked to rising tension and social unrest.

This year is also one of politically sensitive milestones, from the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown on June 4 to the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic on October 1.

The Government has warned dissidents that they risk jail if they persist in efforts to hold a congress of the fledgeling China Democratic Party (CDP), but this has not stopped rights activists from defying the authorities.

"What Beijing is concerned about is that simmering discontent could find an outlet in the new party which appears determined to challenge the Communist Party's monopoly on power," said one diplomat.


STEPHEN SHAVER / AFP

Chinese girls dressed as imperial archers prepare for this year's lunar festival celebrations in Beijing

Already the Government has held show trials that mocked due legal process and meted out long prison terms for three of the CDP's most militant founders, including 13 years for the best-known dissident still in China, Xu Wenli.

Meanwhile, Beijing's problems continue to mount. There has been unrest in the western autonomous Muslim region of Xinjiang; the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, says informal communications with Beijing have been severed with the approach of the 40th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule; and tension has resurfaced in the South China Sea, thanks to a territorial dispute with the Philippines over the Spratly Islands.

In Hong Kong, a lack of confidence in the leadership of Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive, and a constitutional squabble with Beijing over who has the final say in interpreting the territory's laws, have added to the sense of a loss of confidence.

Even Hong Kong's *feng shui* experts are gloomy. "Life will be hard, business will be bad and there will be more pay cuts and retrenchments," Kwong Wai-hung, a *feng shui* master, said.

☐ **Dissident released:** China released Gao Yu, a dissident journalist, on medical parole yesterday. Gao, 56, returned to her Beijing home for the first time since her arrest in 1993 on charges of "disclosing state secrets" in a Hong Kong magazine. *(Reuters)*

US jets strike as Turkey rebuffs Saddam

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AMERICAN warplanes based in Turkey yesterday bombed targets in Iraq as one of President Saddam Hussein's top diplomats was in Ankara on a failed mission to cajole Turkish leaders into stopping allied aircraft using their territory.

Baghdad also said that British and US aircraft flying from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had struck at four sites in southern Iraq, killing five people and wounding 22. The Ministry of Defence said that four RAF Tornado GR1 bombers and seven US aircraft had taken action after an Iraqi fighter strayed into the southern zone.

Earlier Saddam had issued threats that Iraq had the ability to strike at US and British military targets in those countries. It was the starkest warning yet to his Arab neighbours since the build-up to the 1991 Gulf War. Iraq could call on the help and support of "genuine and loyal nationalists" in both countries, Saddam said.

No-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq are the focus of a low-intensity war that began in December after Operation Desert Fox. Washington has relied more heavily on the zones to curb Saddam after the withdrawal of United Nations arms inspectors.

In response, the Iraqi leader has embarked on a mixture of high-level diplomacy and lurid threats to prevent allied aircraft using bases in neighbouring countries. Neither tactic has achieved results, but Washington was dismayed that Turkey, valued as a Nato ally but with an eye to future economic links, agreed to talks with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister. However, Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's Prime Minister, told Mr Aziz that Baghdad should recognise the no-fly zones, comply with UN resolutions and avoid armed conflict with America, Turkish media reports said.

Love-sick Malaysians go hunting for charms of the snake

FROM DAVID WATTS IN KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA is no place to be a snake, especially when it is Chinese New Year. Many locals believe that snake blood is nature's version of Viagra and hunt down the reptiles to ensure the celebrations, and those for Valentine's Day, get the year off to an auspicious start. Ideally a shot of warm snake blood is mixed with whisky and followed up with a snack of snake gall bladder. The deadlier the serpent the better the results, according to local belief — so the favoured prey is a live cobra.

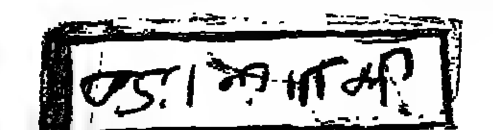
But if there are no cobras to hand, then vipers or banded kraits will do. The demand is so strong that even local licensed snake catchers cannot keep up with it.

Snake smugglers now bring them in from Thailand. Within the last month enforcement officers in the state of Perlis alone have seized 2,794 poisonous and non-poisonous snakes from smugglers.

Cobras are designated a protected species, but they are so valuable that it is worth the risk of prosecution and a fine of M$3,000 (£500).

The situation is complicated by the fact that catching snakes is legal. Perlis issues about 40 snake-catching licences a month. Each licence, which costs about £8, permits the taking of a maximum of 50. But numbers have fallen dramatically. An old snake catcher, Bidin Mat Hashim, told the *New Straits Times* that he had caught 25,000 in the past 30 years and could bag 25 a day in the 1970s. Today he is lucky to snare two a day. A cobra fetches M$120 compared to M$2.50 in the Seventies.

"These are poisonous creatures which can kill people with just one bite," he said. "I don't see anything wrong in catching them."



Train your mind to fight depression

You can liberate yourself by learning to live with your feelings. **Anjana Ahuja** discovers an unusual therapy

Three years ago Gary Jenkins swallowed 90 painkillers with a pint of milk, then lay down in a park to die. It was his second attempt to escape, once and for all, the continual depression that had enveloped him since adolescence and turned him into a loner. "I thought about suicide every single day," he says. "Because I wanted it to be final, I would contemplate jumping under a train, or throwing myself off a 100ft building."

Racked by violent stomach pains and guilt, he confessed to his overdose and recovered in hospital. Now his life is unrecognisably different. Where before he had never sustained a relationship for more than two months, he is now married and planning a family; the long-distance driving jobs and manual labour have been replaced by a fledgeling career as an educational author, and the itinerant, attachment-free lifestyle he once coveted has been swapped for a settled existence in Devon.

Jenkins, 39, who had previously tried antidepressants (he collected them for his first suicide attempt), assertiveness courses and cognitive behaviour therapy without success, attributes his remarkable turnaround to an encounter with Dr Clive Sherlock, a consultant psychiatrist in Oxford recommended by his GP. Sherlock's approach was, to say the least, unconventional. "I soon realised that he was advocating the opposite of what I had done before," Jenkins says. "While cognitive behaviour therapists had tried to get me to change my thoughts, Clive would say 'Accept them. Just don't consider them. It is not an intellectual activity, so don't give them the time of day or do anything with them.'

"So whenever I found myself dwelling on the past or thinking about the future, I would take a sharp intake of breath, label them 'thoughts' and go back to what I was doing. I now respond with zero questioning, reflection or contemplation. It took a long time to get used to it, but it has cleared away a lot of the clutter. I went from thinking of myself as hopeless and awful to realising that it was a complete waste of time to think about these thoughts at all." Sherlock, an affable, energetic man


Gary Jenkins: suicidal

with sharp blue eyes, is currently spending a lot of time and effort trying to persuade his peers that encouraging patients to adapt to and live with one's feelings, rather than rebuffing, ignoring or acting on them can be very liberating. He calls it adaptation behaviour therapy (ABT). His journey of enlightenment began when he started out in psychiatry more than 20 years ago and realised that "drugs and psychotherapy were not the whole answer".

"What happens when we feel angry or frustrated?" he asks. "We hit out, shout out or suppress them, and feel tense or uncomfortable. Perhaps we feel frightened or threatened. But saying 'damn' or punching the door doesn't relieve the problem. We react in the same way again, we form habits. We are not adaptive."

He cites an example: a patient, a fellow doctor, had come to him about an incident three months earlier. A romantic dinner in a restaurant with his wife had been ruined because of noise at a neighbouring table. The waiter declined to intervene; however, his wife did not regard the neighbouring diners as excessively disruptive. "It was his intolerance to the noise, rather than the noise itself, that was a problem," Sherlock says. "Take the noise away and he would have found something else to be intolerant of. If we can learn to tolerate things, they cease to be a problem."

Doesn't this sound suspiciously like becoming a sop to all the unpleasantries that life throws at us? Sherlock rejects this wholeheartedly. "If we learn to tolerate a feeling, then something changes. It is not grinning and bearing it. It is being willing to let go of the thought 'I must have my own way'."

It is very different, he admits, from the usual therapeutic approach: "Medical opinion says patients must face their problems. Well, you cannot tell people who cannot swim that the best way to learn is by pushing them off a boat in the middle of the ocean."

ABT, which Sherlock has pioneered at his clinics in Oxford and London, is controversial because it is so different. He has yet to publish his work in the prestigious medical journals reviewed by his peers, such as *The Lancet* or the *British Medical Journal*. However, he has engaged the interest of Dr Chris John, a GP in Wales who is also involved with the training of young doctors. Concerned by the rates of depression in the medical profession, John has encouraged about 20 doctors to undergo ABT. He says: "Doctors have a horror of being labelled 'sick'. But they are keen on ABT because it is a very practical therapy, and it isn't introspective. Doctors generally don't like being counselled."

He thinks that ABT is rapidly gaining credibility in medical circles partly because it has a "sound, coherent base". He describes it as a physical fitness plan for emotions. "You wouldn't do a 20-mile run without taking a few runs around the block. But most of us try to avoid emotional difficulties. That is why we have such problems coping in a crisis. ABT gives you an increased capacity for coping with mood states."


Robyn Broome's depression after the birth of Jack coincided with stress at work, ill-health and feeling homesick: "I feel that I have some control back"

Grateful patients are also willing to champion ABT. Among them is Robyn Broome, a 33-year-old social worker from Oxford, who became depressed shortly after having her first child, Jack, two years ago. Her postnatal depression coincided with stresses at work; she was also missing her family in Australia and had a problem with digestion. After two weeks of miserable days and sleepless nights, she was put on antidepressants. In an effort to come off the drugs, she began seeing Sherlock a year ago.

Much of Broome's anxiety came from being unable to switch off. "I would think about what we were going to have for dinner, where we would be living next year or about work." Now she concentrates on the here and now. She says: "I allow thoughts to come in on one side of my head and out the other. I can carry on with things I don't want to do because I don't think about them. I am coping much better with life now. Instead of my stress controlling me, I feel that I have some control back." It required a lot of commitment, and she admits that she was worried about turning into an emotionless robot. But after following Sherlock's advice, she thinks that her fears were misplaced: "I can still express and feel emotions, but I can address them within myself. I do not need to behave differently."

> If we learn to tolerate things, they cease to be a problem

As Broome quickly realised, the key to ABT is self-discipline. Sherlock believes that self-discipline over our feelings begins with self-discipline in other aspects of our lives. That is why, to start with, he recommends that patients adopt a timetable for the day. His motto for this regime is "Just do it" (he finds it rather amusing that the sports company Nike has the same slogan, and claims that he thought of it first).

"Get up at the same time each day, no matter how you feel. Don't rationalise it, don't give yourself a treat for doing it and don't think about all the household chores you can do before you go to work. Simply get up." This, he says, is designed to counteract the philosophy by which most of us live — how we feel controls what we do.

His next piece of advice is to not procrastinate. Deal with telephone calls, letters and tasks when you get them. He phrases it more elegantly: "Make an effort to respond to whatever calls us." That way, he says, things that preoccupy us and stress us out gradually turn into normal everyday activities.

Another recommendation is to pay complete attention to whatever we are doing. Sherlock says: "We spend well over 50 per cent of our lives thinking about something other than what we are doing. For example, when you eat, don't have the television or radio on. Just taste the food."

Lastly, he says, work with your feelings: "When you get a feeling, don't tense up against it. Don't suppress it, express it or distract from it. Say 'yes' to it in your head and simply feel it for a few seconds. That's all that's necessary."

Sherlock is not overly concerned that ABT is still outside the mainstream; what matters is that he can help people to deal effectively with their depression, anxiety, panic attacks or even obsessive compulsive disorder. "What has struck me over the years is how well people take to ABT," he says quietly. "In 20 years I have never had such positive and grateful feedback. I find that very moving."

Gary Jenkins says: "My thoughts used to take over and drag me down. I was living in my head. Now I am not dwelling in the past or considering the future. I am living for the here and now, for this moment in this place in space and time."

● *Dr Clive Sherlock: 01865 306700*

Why tamoxifen is so special

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

VIAGRA was devised to treat angina. Its effect on the blood supply to the heart muscle wasn't earth-shattering, but its power to affect the circulation so blood reached parts hitherto starved of nourishment, has turned it into one of the fastest selling drugs ever.

Likewise, tamoxifen, the anti-cancer drug, was one of a group of preparations being investigated as a contraceptive — a morning-after pill. It didn't work but, just like Viagra, failure became a success. All around the world there are now many thousands of women recovering from breast cancer who owe their continued existence to the drug. Tamoxifen, marketed as Nolvadex, is an anti-oestrogen. Interest waned once it was found that it was not the answer to a maiden's prayer.

Dr Craig Jordan had faith in the potential of anti-oestrogens as a treatment for breast cancer and at Massachusetts' Worcester Foundation his research, together with the work of Dr Arthur Walpole of ICI, into the anti-tumour activity of tamoxifen led to the development of this invaluable drug. He has recently updated his book Tamoxifen, which deals with the many questions patients ask doctors about it.

Breast cancer is increasing in Britain but the good news, according to Professor Trevor Powles, the director of the breast unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London and Sutton, Surrey, is that despite this, the likelihood of death of a sufferer from the disease has fallen since 1990 by 15 per cent. In his opinion, this reduction in mortality has become apparent too soon for it to be attributed to screening or chemotherapy. "This truly dramatic drop in the graph of the mortality is very likely to be the result of the increasing use of tamoxifen," he says.

Tamoxifen reduces the chance of a woman with cancer of the breast from dying from her particular tumour by 30 per cent. The evidence is that this is a persistent effect and the improved likelihood of survival remains apparent for at least 15 years.

Not all breast cancers are the same — 75 per cent have oestrogen receptors which can be demonstrated by a simple test in the pathology laboratory. If they have these receptors, the patients, whether pre or post-menopausal, should certainly be taking tamoxifen, however early the diagnosis, for not less than five years.

Likewise, there is an argument for giving chemotherapy to the 25 per cent of women whose tumours don't have oestrogen-receptors. Tamoxifen not only reduces recurrence of the original tumour, it also reduces by more than 50 per cent the chance of a woman developing another primary breast cancer in the opposite breast.

The Americans are so impressed by tamoxifen that they now license it as a drug to prevent breast cancer in high-risk women. In Britain we are slightly more cautious. So efficient has become the early detection and treatment of patients with small cancers of the breast, that the lives actually saved by prophylactic prescription of tamoxifen have to be balanced against the side-effects.

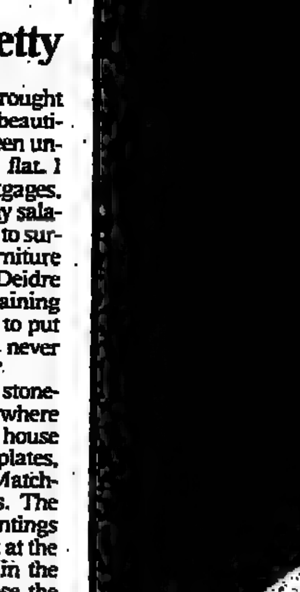
Large European trials are now under way to compare these risks. The comparatively rare side-effects of tamoxifen must always be considered in relation to its efficacy in reducing the death rate from breast cancer. However, there is a small but appreciable increase in endometrial carcinoma — a tumour of the womb — and it has a deleterious effect on the liver equivalent to that of the Pill. Conversely, it lowers low-density cholesterol, and there are two reports of a reduction in heart attacks. In post-menopausal women tamoxifen makes osteoporosis less likely.

There is plenty of other good news about breast cancer. Patients who have a stage I or stage II tumour when the cancer is still confined either to the breast or the glands in the armpits, have a five-year survival rate of about 80 per cent. In some units the five-year survival rate is more than 90 per cent. The earlier the disease is diagnosed, the more likely the patient is to thrive. In America, where screening is well advanced, less than 10 per cent of breast cancers are diagnosed at stage III or IV, when they have already spread further afield.

● *Tamoxifen, for the Treatment and Prevention of Breast Cancer*, PRR Melville, New York (48 South Service Road, Melville NY 11747). ISBN 1-891483-00-5.

Dirt, Dyson and the H-word

James Dyson was nine when his father died. That has driven the millionaire inventor ever since. Interview by **Moira Petty**



James Dyson smiles enigmatically when asked the truth of reports that he is about to revolutionise home laundering with a superfast washing machine. "That didn't come from us," he says. "But a lot of domestic appliances haven't changed at all. We're working on several things at the same time."

The secrecy at his factory and base in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, where staff are served organic, meat-free meals and are enjoined to jog to work, is not surprising. Sales of more than 3.5 million models for his bag-free Dual Cyclone vacuum cleaner attest to its status as a modern design classic. But it took 15 years, 5,000 prototypes and dogfights with the opposition (one manufacturer bought the technology with the aim of keeping it out of production) before it went on sale. His company had a turnover of £150 million in 1997 and net assets of £16.1 million, and Dyson, 52, stands at equal 45th in *The Sunday Times* Rich List with an estimated £400 million fortune. Yet he says: "I'm redoubling my efforts and working harder than ever. When we're working on a new project we have no idea if we'll sell a single one. The uncertainty is what makes it exciting. It's the greatest form of gambling."

It is also a quest for immortality. "It would give me a thrill to know that when I'm dead, people will talk of giving the room a Dyson, if only because I don't want them to say they are going to Hoover. The 'H' word is like the 'F' word to me. I love the business of domestic chores, washing up and cutting the grass, using the chainsaw and vacuuming. That's how the cleaner started."

But he does not check for dirt in his exquisite honey-coloured stone house in Wiltshire, bought from Lord Puttnam for a reported £3 million. "If there's dust there, I'd rather not know."

During the years of struggling he always lived in grand houses. There was a seven-bedroom Georgian house outside Bath and before that a farmhouse on the Badminton estate in Gloucestershire. "It was a *small* farmhouse," he protests. "The M4 opened up and suddenly we were one-and-a-half hours, not three, from London. We paid £11,000 for it and sold it for £55,000. I was brought up in Norfolk, which is beautiful, and I would have been unhappy stuck in a small flat. I took out enormous mortgages, way more than half of my salary. We always managed to survive but we had no furniture for 20 years. My wife Deidre was constantly complaining that there was nowhere to put her clothes, but I've never liked cheap cupboards."

We are talking in the stone-flagged breakfast room, where antique pine cupboards house an eclectic array of old plates, modern pottery and Matchbox cars and train sets. The walls are lined with paintings by Deidre, whom he met at the Byam Shaw art school in the Sixties. Deidre also chose the jewel-like shades of violet, lilac and green that cover the walls in a bold, chalky finish. "We had great fun doing it ourselves. Unfortunately, it comes off when you rub it," says Dyson.

> It would thrill me to hear people say: I'll Dyson the room

The cream kitchen with Aga overlooks part of the 50-acre estate. A Dyson cleaner stands in the utility room, and the washing machine and tumble-dryer are a high street brand. High-tech gadgets are hidden, though Dyson admits to owning a battery-operated knife sharpener. "I hovered for ages over a personal heart monitor when I was in Japan but I decided not to buy it as all the instructions were in Japanese. There was also a bad-breath detector, which had two grades below acceptable. I wanted to buy a Japanese lavatory that squirts water at you but had to content myself with a heated loo seat."

A Dyson subsidiary is about to open in Japan, where a Japanese-made Dyson cleaner sells for £2,000. "It does amuse me to see people learning Japanese etiquette. I soon realised that all that bowing and scraping is no good. I decided to be my normal self, which was outrageous enough for them. The only thing that annoyed them was that I would blow my nose, whereas they snorted. It became a game, with the Japanese saying, 'put your handkerchief away' and my replying 'stop your snorting'."

Dyson has springy grey hair and a lean and hungry appearance. He is wearing a shirt from the New York outlet of a well-known Hong Kong tailor, and trousers from Voyage, the London shop where only the richest are admitted.



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Cleaning up: James Dyson, the inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner, is rumoured to be working on a superfast washing machine that should add to his £400 million fortune

He has banned formal wear from his workplace. "The suit and tie is an armour. I want my staff to feel relaxed. I want them to think of the consumer as a friend. I want them to come in every day and feel that they can make a difference."

He wavers between the dictator-like traits of a self-confessed obsessive and his natural libertarian streak.

The workplace café is run by antique dealers because he thought good taste in *objets d'art* and food would go hand in hand. "There are no chips or fried food on the menu. It would be a mistake to pretend that everyone is happy but at least there is a theme. I eat chips occasionally, in a restaurant, but never at home.

"We're trying to encourage everyone to walk or cycle in. We're building a smart new bike shed, and there are showers." For staff who come some distance, Dyson is looking for parking spaces a couple of miles away, so they can jog, walk or cycle from there. How does he travel? "I drive as we're six miles away." And what kind of car does he have? "I'd rather not say. I'm not very into cars. Oh, all right, it's a Mercedes, but it was the Citrëon suspension, which they have, that I was buying and not the car. I'd like to cycle but it could mean a long ride home from meetings."

He bears no grudge against the less active, he says. "Fat people can have get-up-and-go. But we have a preponderance towards employing younger people before they are sullied by other organisations."

Dyson runs "quite hard" three times a week, a pastime he enjoyed as a child. His father, a classics master at Gresham's public school in Norfolk, died in his forties, when Dyson was nine, of throat cancer. "I didn't know any other single-parent families and I felt there was a slight stigma. I felt different.

"I remember when he got into the bath I used to see the vivid red disc mark on his chest, the result of the barium treatment. On holiday in Devon I discovered him being violently ill, trying to keep it from us. It didn't hit me immediately. I didn't wonder how I would survive but who would play with me. We used to walk across the marshes, get the boat and sail and there would have been no one to do that or to teach me woodwork. My father had a huge enthusiasm for everything.

"My mother was a strong character. During the war she had been one of those people who pushed aeroplanes around on a map like you see in films. Later, when she was 50, she read English at Cambridge and was furious at only getting a 2:1."

Only a few years after graduating she, too, died — of liver cancer. "She lasted about four months after the diagnosis. She was able to cuddle our youngest son, Sam, born a few months before she died. It was tragic. It does occur to me that there might be a genetic link. These deaths have made me in a hurry to do things which perhaps I wouldn't have done otherwise as you never know when you will go." Dyson's three children, now in their twenties, are all designers. "They will say that I brought my frustrations with the business home. I used to see these indulgent looks cross their faces when I rushed in with a prototype. To make things work is agony and I thought it was important for them to see that in its rawness." His mainstay has been Deidre, who gave art classes at home when they were struggling financially. A couple of years older than her husband, she is also slim and youthful-looking with a blonde bob. "I'm wilder than she is," says Dyson. "She's direct and has no artifice."

All his best decisions, he avers, have been taken emotively. "A colleague insisted that we should all have psychometric testing. I thought it was a waste of time but it did reveal that I work instinctively.

"The conclusion was that I don't operate rationally. I think just like a woman."

Firearms plus children equals bloodshed. **Vanora Bennett** reports

Gun culture's deadly curse

Harris, aged 9, was riding a bike in the street near his Texas home last November when disaster struck. "Michael J. and his friend were just visitin' everybody else in the neighbourhood," recalls his mother, her voice oddly calm. "They came across Zachary, and this other little boy told Zachary: 'There he is. There's Michael J. Shoot him.' And he did. Cold blood. Blam blam. Just shot him in his head."

Just why an 11-year-old — arrested later — would pull a gun on a nine-year-old remains unclear. But Michael's story — part of his brain was destroyed but he miraculously survived — is a heart-rending example of the dangers resulting from America's deadly obsession with guns. The fact that an 11-year-old could get his hands on a gun is part of the problem. About 50 million Americans own a handgun. Every day, 10 people under 19 are shot dead, some deliberately, some by accident.

For children today, bombarded by violent movies on television, whose heroes always survive duels with death to live happily ever after, the complexities of being brought up in a culture where real guns are available are hard to deal with. The result is periodic outbreaks of *Lord of the Flies*-type horror, in which childish cruelty is twinned with murderous power. The worst multiple killing to hit US headlines last year took place in Jonesboro, Arkansas. On March 24, two pre-teen boys attacked classmates and teachers at Westside Middle School with an arsenal of handguns, rifles and semi-automatic weapons, killing five.

> A kid is more likely to shoot you than an adult

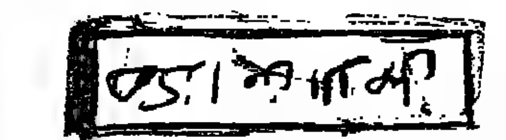
Widespread reporting on Jonesboro shone the spotlight on inexplicable violence in America. Parallels were drawn with the Dunblane Primary School massacre in Scotland in 1996, in which 16 children and a teacher were shot dead by a lone gunman. The following year the British Government enforced a total ban on privately owned handguns.

American gun-control supporters, who blame the large number of gun deaths on the easy availability of firearms and lax licensing and safety rules, lobbied for a similar ban in the US. But the killing continues. With so many conflicting views and emotions surrounding the role of the gun in society, America has done nothing — despite the fact that it has homicide levels 10 to 20 times higher than in many other wealthy countries.

For many Americans, the gun is central to their notion of independence. The American right to bear arms is enshrined in the Second Amendment to the Constitution. Bob Kolasky, writing for the Internet magazine *IntellectualCapital.com*, says: "Gun control, like abortion and homosexual rights, is subject to an intractable debate. Both sides approach the argument with religious fervour."

The hold that gun culture has on the state of Texas is revealed in a BBC *Inside Story* documentary tonight titled *Young Guns*. It tracks both the plump white kids of redneck families as they are taught, legally, how to use their family's guns for hunting, and the skinny black kids from urban housing projects who — according to the white officer patrolling their neighbourhood — might be dealing drugs. Ruston Alsbrooks, a policeman, says it is the young dealers who scare him most: "A kid is more likely to shoot you than an adult. Kids don't think about it. They figure they're gonna get away with it." As the debate continues, the human toll mounts.

● Inside Story: Young Guns *on BBC1 tonight at 10pm.*



Eat, drink and be a real family

Forget TV chefs. The way to encourage children to cook good food is to provide it at the family dining table, says **Joe Joseph**

Contrary to popular perception, dining with children can be both enjoyable and relaxing, providing you get the seasoning right by remembering to stir four Nembutal or similar prescription sedatives into their soup. (Before medically trained readers write in to complain, I should point out that, obviously, I was only joking about adding the four Nembutal: two are usually sufficient).

How have we got ourselves into this gastronomic mess? Tony Blair's Government has decided that it's because young people know only a diet of fast food and microwaved ready-meals that are eaten straight from tinfoil trays.

> How have we got ourselves into this mess?

It is true that if you were to show these children the crockery department of Selfridges they would think they were in some museum of ancient eating implements chronicling an era when human beings ate with china plates and metal forks rather than with polystyrene bowls and small plastic stirrers that look like a Lilliputian's lacrosse stick ("Look Mum! Before they invented hamburgers which just dissolved into a paste on contact with your tongue, people had to hack through them with things called knives. Gross!").

Microwaveable meals-for-one — combined with hectic work schedules and swelling divorce rates — also mean that the chances of several members of a family all eating together are lower than Dipsy's IQ. Hence a secondary problem: a lack of communication.

In a household where everyone eats when they want, in whichever room they want, the chances of having a family conversation are high only if the house is equipped with conference-dial facilities. So during this week's half-term holidays, the Government is sending television chefs into 36 schools to teach children how to prepare healthy suppers at home. If the scheme — launched by that dogged campaigner for better food, Dame Prue Leith, and by Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister — is a success, this initial pilot scheme will be extended to 100 schools during the Easter and summer holidays.

The first questions you ask yourself are: does something need to be done? Should the Government be involved in doing it? And is sending the likes of Ainsley Harriott into schools to roll his eyes like the drums on a fruit machine going to instil in children a new respect for food? Or is it going to make them think that cooking is some kind of remedial therapy given to Care in the Community patients? OK, let's agree something must be done.

If the Government wants to poke its nose into the food chain, why doesn't it stop food manufacturers and fast-food restaurants producing items that you would be reluctant to step in, let alone put in your mouth? Selling frozen baked-bean pizzas is the equivalent of hawking mild stimulants to schoolkids. Once they get the taste for it, they'll soon be onto the hard stuff, you know: "Chicken-style nuggets, made from tasty (Legal warning: no manufacturer liability is implied by use of this term) chicken slurry hosed down from abattoir walls and reformed into shapes not otherwise seen anywhere in nature."

Filthy food and fractured family life are two sides of the same problem. Societies that bother to labour over their food are also societies that reap the rewards of meals which are lovingly prepared and lustily eaten: oral gratification, good health and excited (not necessarily exciting) conversation. A family that gathers round the table to eat lustily also talks lustily and — with luck — argues lustily, producing the glue of family life. This same glue cements friendships. Good food generates conversation and bonhomie, which in turn create reasons to gather again for more of the same: it's a virtuous circle.

Italians understand the importance of food and family. When Italians watch scenes of frenzied family life in a Fellini movie, they don't see fictional exaggeration, they see a documentary. When, in a Woody Allen movie, the family dinner table jangles to an argument over which is the better ocean, the Atlantic or the Pacific, Jews walk out of the cinema saying not, "what craziness that Woody Allen gets up to", but, "can you believe anyone would really think the Pacific was a better ocean than the Atlantic?"

Teaching children to prepare celery, prawn and apple salad (one of the dishes on this week's training menu) when supermarket shelves are still full of Cheestrings is doing things the hard way, like teaching them the rules of a game they have never watched. You could spend several frustrating years trying to teach an alien from Planet Zingo the rules and the magic of football; but you could make the alien hungry to learn all these things himself if you took him to watch Brazil play for half an hour. Similarly, if the Government wants our children to appreciate the benefits of good food, they should be packing them off on enforced trips to southern Italy. Then the point of fresh food made with good ingredients becomes obvious.

They'll be begging to learn. You can't start this programme too early. My own children are still a little young to fend for themselves at the local burger bar, unless they're willing to pester strangers to cut up their food for them. But already they must have noticed the difference between just eating together and making time to eat together.

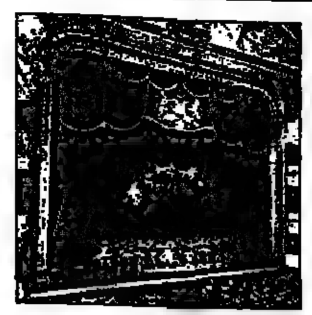
Breakfast is usually chaotic in most homes. However, yesterday — having returned from spending the weekend at a hotel — we awoke to find the children had laid the table for breakfast just as it had been in our hotel on Sunday morning. Maybe seeing an ornately laid breakfast table — and the chatty start to the day that it provoked — was for them the culinary equivalent of watching Brazil play football. The peanut butter they had streaked through their hair must have been QPR's influence.

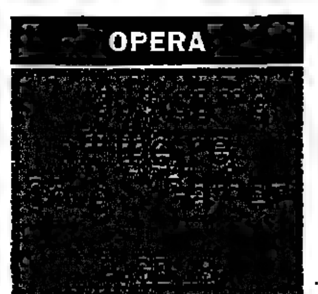

ROBERT HARDING

Four's a family: good food generates conversation and bonhomie, which in turn creates reasons to gather once again for more of the same

saying NO

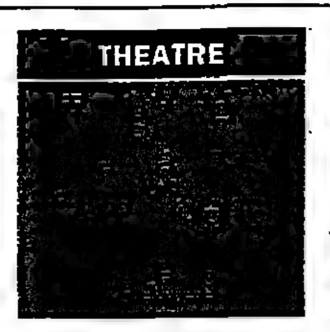
Starting tomorrow: the series no parent can afford to miss. Asha Phillips, a child psychotherapist trained at the renowned Tavistock Clinic, explains how to say no to your child — whether a baby, a toddler, a primary school pupil or a teenager — and why setting limits is vital for our children's wellbeing





THE TIMES

ARTS





Costner dances with pussy-cats

What movies are Americans going out to see? **Giles Whittell** begins a new weekly survey of what's hot and happening in Hollywood



Watching Kevin Costner trying to get back on his horse as a movie star is like watching Ivan Lendl trying to win Wimbledon: frustrating. He has the ability, the entourage and the reservoir of long-suffering public support, but he keeps blowing it because deep down he doesn't seem to want it enough.

In Hollywood they have a quicker way of saying this. Costner has an attitude problem, and the attitude is "screw you". It applies to studio executives and audiences alike and it emerged during the making of two of the more disastrous disaster movies of recent times. Perversity and reckless courage were enough — just — to explain the $175 million whirlpool that was *Waterworld*, but only insolence could account for the more recent Costner debacle, *The Postman*, which had audiences howling in all the wrong places, even during the trailer, and which caused one critic to write: "Anyone who buys into this has been licking too many stamps."

Now we have **Message in a Bottle**, a big, sloppy Valentine's Day kiss for Costner diehards and a make-or-break film for the man himself. As usual nowadays, he is producer as well as star, having lent his name early on to Denise DiNovi's efforts to turn Nicholas Sparks's bestseller of the same name into another *Bridges of Madison County*. As usual, Costner is grumpy, or inscrutable, or deliciously taciturn, depending on your point of view. But this time, luckily for Costner Inc, the grumpiness has been sublimated into a love story that could make serious money even though it is not especially good.

Gone, for one thing, is the post-apocalyptic rhetoric of *The Postman*. In this film Costner's character hardly speaks at all. Instead he builds and restores beautiful oak schooners and channels his powers of expression into bottled messages to his dear deceased wife. They read uncomfortably like the insides of Hallmark cards, but when Robin Wright Penn finds one on a Cape Cod beach and inadvertently lets it be published by the *Chicago Tribune*, where she works, it takes the Midwest by storm.

Penn, wife of Sean, is gorgeous in an unfashionably grown-up sort of way. She can even make a rental car look glamorous. Arriving in one, she finds her mystery writer in an enchanting oceanfront Victorian house on North Carolina's Outer Banks, where he cooks her a steak ("It's the best thing I do," he mutters, though we never see the proof). Then they fall in love. What follows will activate most tear ducts, and this is some achievement since it involves scant plot and even less dialogue, confirming instead what Napa Valley marketing men have been telling us for years: a swirling half-full glass of cabernet means "Sssh! Thinking in progress."

If they are worth it, fragile young stars or Hugh Grants undergoing career reconstruction tend to be given what the industry calls "protection". They are cast alongside charismatic older pros to make them look good. Costner is protected here, but subtly, as befits a strapping 43-year-old former idol with an ego that apparently refuses to recognise the "former".

His most consistent bulwark is cinematography that often makes *Message in a Bottle* feel like *Out of Africa* in fishing sweaters. The North Atlantic coast has never looked better, and nor, for that matter, has the inside of a newspaper. Director Luis Mandoki, who brought you Meg Ryan in the equally syrupy *When a Man Loves a Woman*, has created a *Chicago Tribune* its staff would not recognise, with gleaming cubicles and a staff of relaxed models whose only concern seems to be Penn's character's emotional wellbeing. There is an exception in the excellent Robbie Coltrane. He plays her editor with a flawless American accent — except when he's growling at the office lesbian — and seems to have a lucrative career in cameos ahead of him if only he can get a grip on his alarming girth.

But Costner's chief human support, coming within a wink of stealing the whole film, is Paul Newman. As Dodge, the boat-builder's father, his every ossified glance is a reminder that true stars are simply moving models. To get your money's worth you needn't root for them or even listen; only watch. "Newman has reached the stage of his career where he has so much presence and skill to call upon that each new role feels like a gift we are not quite worthy of," the hard-to-please Kenneth Turan gushed in Friday's *Los Angeles Times*. He succumbed to the film despite its sepia-tinted script, but Janet Maslin, his *New York Times* counterpart, could not. Penn's character, she complained acidly, "is one of those lonely, high-powered career women who, as movies of the late 1990s like to tell us, would secretly be happier digging clams with the right wise, down-to-earth lonely guy". The kind of guy Costner can undeniably play.

Meanwhile, holding his own in a very different sort of genre is Mel Gibson, a far more versatile actor who has chosen to stay in the $20 million-per-film club by churning out his quota of mediocre action thrillers. His latest is **Payback**, directed by Brian Helgeland but held over from last year until its release ten days ago so that Gibson could reshoot large chunks of it and make it much more violent. It made $21 million on its opening weekend and will probably go on to make five times as much. That constitutes a hit — something Costner badly needs. Whether he truly wants it is another matter.



After blowing his credibility with *Waterworld* and *The Postman*, Kevin Costner falls back on the heavyweight support of Paul Newman for the new and weepy *Message in a Bottle*

US BOX OFFICE TAKINGS

1	(-)	**Payback** (Paramount)	$21.2m/$21.2m
2	(1)	**She's All That** (Miramax)	$11.6m/$30.7m
3	(2)	**Patch Adams** (Universal)	$4.4m/$122.4m
4	(3)	**Varsity Blues** (Paramount)	$3.8m/$44.3m
5	(57)	**Saving Private Ryan** (DreamWorks)	$3.6m/$194.6m
6	(5)	**Shakespeare in Love** (Miramax)	$3.5m/$36.1m
7	(4)	**A Civil Action** (Buena Vista)	$3.1m/$51.6m
8	(6)	**Stepmom** (Sony)	$2.51m/$87.2m
9	(-)	**Simply Irresistible** (Fox)	$2.2m/$2.2m
10	(8)	**You've Got Mail** (Warner)	$2.2m/$111.1m

● *Figure in brackets indicates last week's position.*
First amount is weekend takings Feb 5-7; second is total so far

The return of Terrence Malick dominates the first of **Geoff Brown**'s Berlin Film Festival reports

Deep in the jungle something stirs

Did you ever think you would reach the day when John Travolta would be cast as a brigadier-general, replete with military bark and abrupt moustache? Did you ever think you would see another film directed by Terrence Malick? That day is here, at least in Berlin, where *The Thin Red Line* already seems the obvious contender, so far, for the Film Festival's top prize, the Golden Bear.

Not that the rest of Berlin's competition line-up could be considered riff-raff. For the last festival of the millennium, the organisers have hauled in new films by the likes of Robert Altman, David Cronenberg, Stephen Frears, Bertrand Tavernier and Claude Chabrol. We shall see how they fare in the next few days.

Twenty years have passed since Malick, the director of those immaculate 1970s classics *Badlands* and *Days of Heaven*, last shouted "Action!", years in which the face of mainstream movies has changed almost beyond recognition. Malick, however, has kept faith with his own poetic, image-driven cinema. Part of the jolt and joy of this adaptation of James Jones's war novel about an American unit fighting in Guadalcanal in 1942 lies in its refusal to splatter the audience with sensations. To those used to being led by the nose, the film might seem low on narrative.



Dog soldier: Sean Penn joins the American assault on the Solomon Islands in Terrence Malick's *The Thin Red Line*

There are no leading characters as such: the story's perspective keeps shifting as Elias Koteas's rifle company face demands from the blunt and ambitious Nick Nolte to take hill 210 from the Japanese — or else. And every human, even John Travolta, faces intense competition from the natural beauty of the Solomon Islands and its inhabitants: the inscrutable alligator; the long grass along which the camera flies so lyrically; the charred bird fluttering towards death. Characters' interior thoughts provide another thread. Where does violence come from? Where does love come from? *The Thin Red Line* makes you think, feel and see in a subtler, more penetrating way than a realistic war movie such as *Saving Private Ryan*. Cherish it when the film comes to London in a few weeks' time.

The begetter of *Private Ryan*, Steven Spielberg, ushered in a special screening of *The Last Days*, James Moll's Oscar-nominated documentary relaying the memories of five Auschwitz survivors. Purely as a piece of cinema the film has little to offer, but it is impossible not to be moved by the survivors' horrific childhood memories of mass deaths by gas, gun or oven, of hands tightly clutching siblings and parents soon to be another Holocaust statistic. The Berlin audience watched the film in thoughtful silence.

The sober mood was welcome after a day that brought both Manuel Gomez Pereira's hollow sex thriller, *Between Your Legs*, and Thomas Vincent's *Karnaval*, a French competition entry. Did you know that Dunkirk spends much of February fighting off winter gloom by parading through the streets in garish costumes and ladies' wigs, drinking mightily and shouting rude songs? Vincent, a first-time director, uses the carnival as background and catalyst to a modest triangular drama. Arab misfit loves put-upon young wife. Boorish husband foams at the mouth. It passed the time while waiting for something better.

Something, perhaps, like Alan Rudolph's *Breakfast of Champions*? A Kurt Vonnegut novel; Bruce Willis in one of his offbeat roles; a quirky director on an upswing after the delights of *Afterglow*: the signs looked favourable. It soon became apparent, however, that Rudolph and his actors were pushing too hard for their effects. It was also clear that time had rubbed some gloss off Vonnegut's 1973 satire of American consumer society. Willis plays Dwayne Hoover, the car dealer king of Midland City, usually seen smiling madly on lurid television advertisements. But now the smile has cracked. Existential dread steals over him, just as a dishevelled pulp-fiction writer (Albert Finney) is staggering towards the town, possibly bearing the meaning of life. Some moments are worth savouring — Nick Nolte in red lady's lingerie is not a sight you forget — yet the noise of ancient targets being thwacked to death is pretty deafening.

In a busy festival such as Berlin's, a disappointment can easily be followed by a pleasant surprise. After last year's two Danish films made according to the "Dogma" aesthetic (no production artifice, only a hand-held camera), some of us blanched at the thought of another. But Soren Kargh-Jacobsen's *Mifune* proved so absorbing that the Dogma gimmick seemed immaterial. The yuppie hero is forced to face up to his seedy family when his retarded brother is left alone on a crumbling farm after their father's death. Advertising for a housekeeper, they get a hooker instead. The title refers to Toshiro Mifune, but to find out how the late Japanese actor fits into the picture you will just have to see the film.

Away from the competition, the usual glories, follies and failures are being screened round the clock. Shirley MacLaine is being fêted, the complete works of Otto Preminger are being exhumed. And Aki Kaurismäki, Finland's melancholy jester, is in town with a silent movie. *Juha* is based on a 1911 novel famous and melodramatic enough to have been filmed three times before. It sounds a bit like *Karnaval*: young wife is whisked away to the city by a raffish passer-by; lump of a husband sets off with an axe. The removal of words makes little difference to Kaurismäki's laid-back style, but the silence underlines how poverty-stricken modern visual storytelling is compared with the silent masters.

● *Richard Cork's review of Picasso at the Barbican will appear tomorrow*

Glam or sham?

POP

It's St Valentine's Night and libidinous teens are getting to grips with each other in the dark corners of the Saint Francis Xavier Hall, Dublin, while on stage an androgynous individual sings about having sex with a robot. The Jesuit missionary after whom the hall is named is surely spinning in his grave.

This would, I'm sure, amuse Brian Molko, the aforementioned paragon of androgyny, who as lead singer with **Placebo** is on something of a mission to stir things up by flaunting his sexual ambiguity while tackling subjects of an extreme nature in his lyrics.

But the fact of the matter is that Placebo are a fair to middling amalgam of glam and grunge, using the style manifesto of Ziggy Stardust-era Bowie to add a splash of colour to their hard-bitten guitar sound. On songs such as *You Don't Care About Us* and *Every You Every Me* it works to good effect, but it's hard to dispel the feeling that Placebo are not as good as they think they are. There is still the suspicion that their star may wane with the passing of the *Velvet Goldmine* bandwagon.

It's obvious that Molko, bassist/guitarist Stefan Olsdal and drummer Steve Hewitt are becoming an increasingly compact unit, but their cause wasn't helped by the wretched acoustics of the SFX, which blunted the visceral attack of *You Don't Care About Us* and betrayed the subtlety of the slower numbers such as *The Crawl*.

For the encore, *Pure Morning* and *Teenage Angst* seemed like barbed Valentine greetings from arch anti-romantics. Not that it bothered those couples in the corner.

NICK KELLY

ARCHITECTURE
£214 million well spent?

ARTS

CLASSICAL CDS
Mendelssohn Octet choice

Curtain up on the new Garden

Marcus Binney explores the magnificent new foyers and the state-of-the-art backstage facilities of the redeveloped Royal Opera House


A computer-generated image shows how the new Bow Street front of the redeveloped Royal Opera House and Floral Hall will look. The foyer spaces have been vastly increased

IMAGE HAYES DAVIDSON

This morning, at once fearfully and proudly, the Royal Opera House opens its doors to the press for the first preview of its massive building works. In many minds will be the same question: has the £214 million project been a colossal waste of money? Could a new, much bigger 3,000-seat opera house not have been had for half the price on a new site south of the river?

Covent Garden may never be the People's Opera, but the most obvious benefits of the £130 million being spent on actual construction (£95 million so far) are to the performers and purchasers of the cheapest seats who used to suffocate in the "gods". Here is the best use of rooftop space London has ever seen, new foyers that compel you to explore the building, an exquisitely restored auditorium, and a backstage and fly tower that, for fast flexible working and breathtaking stage effects, should equal if not surpass any theatre in the world.

With a whole city block covering 2.5 acres finally at their disposal, the architects Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones have provided backstage areas lofty enough for jet liners. A uniform minimum clear height of 11 metres allows large built scenery for six different productions to be constantly available, in a continuous open space running 110 metres diagonally across the site — from Floral Street to Russell Street.

For speed of movement, the scenery will be stored in 26 large wagons that can be instantly motorised by attaching caterpillar tracks, or (in an emergency) manhandled. Huge sliding doors, 70 tonnes apiece, make it possible to separate stage and backstage area, allowing the construction of scenery and rehearsals of three different productions simultaneously. And the new triple-height fly tower has seven lighting bridges and allows one set of flying scenery to be stored above another, as well as hoists to lift whole sections of built scenery.

Under the guiding eye of the decorator David Mlinaric, the auditorium has emerged in ravishing pale blue and gold (have no fear, the seats will be in familiar red velvet). Dull bronze paint has been replaced by judicious gilding of highlights rather than whole panels. The biggest change is the removal of the straight stair up to the back of the stalls in favour of twin curving arms which allow the rake of the seats to be raised and sightlines improved. Air conditioning, as at Glyndebourne, is introduced beneath each seat.

An ingenious device which allows the proscenium arch to be widened by a metre is now in operation again. New wing elevators make it possible to enlarge the pit to the size needed for Wagner or Strauss.

After this vast expenditure the criticism can be made that there are just 56 extra seats — bringing the total to 2,157. Dixon replies: "The essential point is that the old auditorium was the right size."

To make the most of the new Covent Garden you will need to arrive as the doors open at six. The big change comes with the reconstruction of the iron and glass Floral Hall as the main foyer, where the whole audience can gather. You enter at the top of the first flight of the old grand stair. A full-height mirror at the end neatly doubles the apparent length of the hall. In the colonnades are mezzanine galleries where you can dine elegantly before a performance.

A pair of dramatically long escalators ascend to the amphitheatre bars. Halfway up you have the thrill of bursting through the ceiling and seeing the majestic Crystal Palace-style glass roof of the Floral Hall glowing from within. The amphitheatre bar not only has a balcony looking down into the hall, but also long open-air loggias with a panoramic view over Covent Garden Piazza and an unexpected glimpse of Nelson on his column.

Hidden away on top of all this is a brilliantly contrived rooftop village with enough space for the Royal Ballet to do its practice on site. One small and three full-size ballet studios open onto a bright sitting-out space with huge window seats and a secluded outdoor terrace where ballet dancers (who like to smoke) can retreat to light up and sunbathe.

When fully operational, a thousand people will be at work on site, with costume making, cloth dyeing, wig making and jewellery set familiarly under the eaves in a series of cosy, well-lit studio spaces. Singers' dressing rooms have glorious views over the Piazza.

The building could make both opera and the opera house more accessible. A public walk runs through the building from the corner of the Piazza to Bow Street. There is a new studio theatre in the basement. Around the Piazza the new arcades by Dixon and Jones form an elegant revival of "stripped down" 1930s classicism, with Portland stone columns rising to a plain white vault inspired by San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice.

By contrast, their new façades along Russell Street and Bow Street are bland. But they have one merit: their tameness sets off the appeal of the modest buildings opposite which give Covent Garden its distinctive character.

Will the investment in new technology see an end to the Spanish practices that bedevilled the old opera house? That is still an open question. Perhaps Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, should adopt the 3-2-1 principle of funding. Give the opera house chairman Sir Colin Southgate the £25 million he wants for the first year, reduce it to two-thirds the next year, a third the year after, and zilch after that. The Historic Royal Palaces agency, which looks after the Tower of London and Hampton Court, has progressively freed itself from subsidy in this manner.

The Opera House has phenomenal potential for hiring out the Floral Hall, the roof terraces and the former crush bar beneath the portico for events, as well as deploying them seductively for the opera's own fund-raising. This is a building that has all the glamour, modernity and facilities that money can buy — and it must be made to pay its way.

IMAGE HAYES DAVIDSON/BILL COOPER

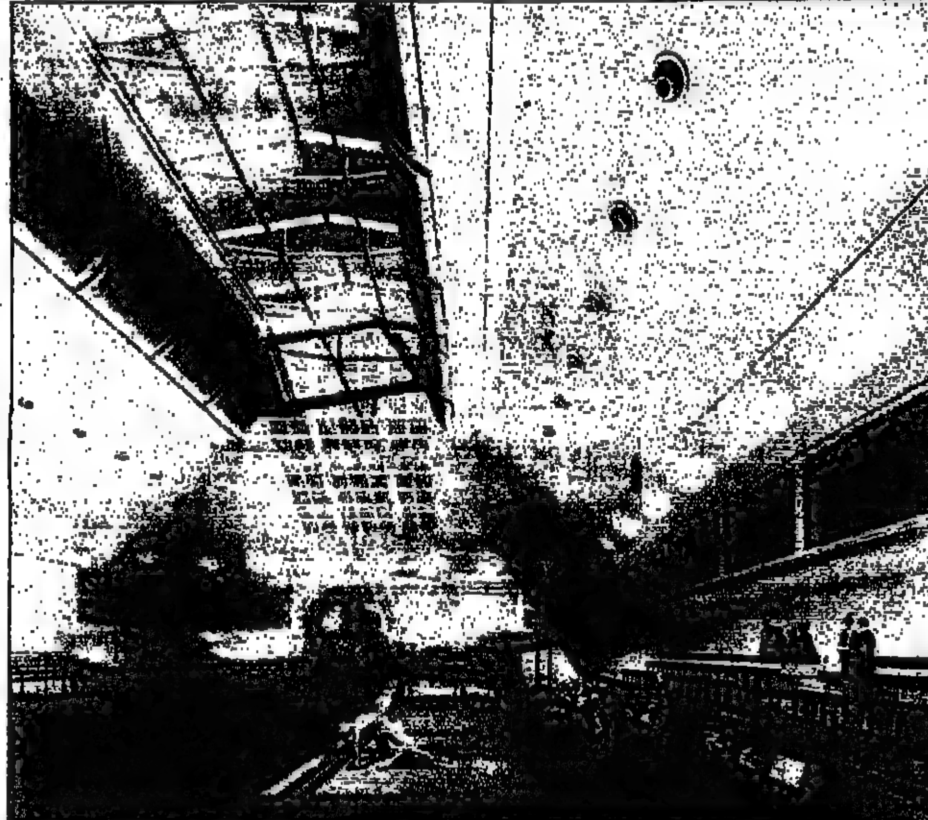

One of the new studios that allow the Royal Ballet to rehearse permanently at Covent Garden

IMAGE HAYES DAVIDSON


Inside the redeveloped Floral Hall. Dramatic escalators ascend to the amphitheatre bars

WRITTEN when he was just 16, Mendelssohn's Octet remains one of the most celebrated of 19th-century string works, and there are now many fine recordings of it. Two strong versions come from the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble. The first (Philips, 1978) is led with ruthless precision by Iona Brown; the second (Chandos, 1989), led by Kenneth Sillito, is more human. But Sillito and Brown played on a far better recording back in 1968. This was by the Melos Ensemble of London. This EMI recording is my runner-up especially given the wonderful Schubert Octet you get with it.

Surpassing all other recordings, however, is the one (on Telarc, CD 80142, £14.99) by a collaboration of two quartets, the Cleveland and the Meliora. Any performance that leaves players and listeners alike in need of a shower gets my vote. The eight of them sound both youthful and mature, tightly unanimous and wildly individual, seriously professional and delightfully amateur all at once, just like one imagines the first performance to have been in the Mendelssohns' Berlin home in 1825.

ANDREW MANZE

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THEATRE
Raw slice of Dublin life

ARTS

LISTINGS
Le Cid in Hammersmith

Irish eyes are shiners



If there is a criticism of the plays that Ireland has been sending in refreshing jugfuls to mainland Britain, it is that they are too rural, too amusing, or too both. The Emerald Isle has its grey concrete patches, some of them quite ugly; or so I was recently reminded by an eminent Dubliner, who found something suspect in the current English fascination with his nation's new drama.

Well, assuming he is right, here's a corrective to make sentimentalists blink. Mark O'Rowe is a tougher writer than Conor McPherson, but has the same talent for storytelling, the same fondness for monologue. His *Howie the Rookie* comes in two halves, each describing part of a single day, each narrated by a young man in cheap street clothes, both evoking an urban nowhere-very-clear in which fun consists of boozing, having joyless sex with grimly predatory girls and finding excuses to beat people to smithereens. The effect is of *Trainspotting* without the drugs, but with extra lashings of violence: and Irvine Welsh, who recently complained that drama in London is too genteel, would do well to trek out to the Bush and see that at least one theatre is contradicting his views.

Actually, this is a trip for anyone who wants to discover a bold, brash new dramatist and see a piece with ten times the imaginative flair of Welsh's current *You'll Have Had Your Hole*. For a few moments I flinched, not because of the content, but because O'Rowe's text threatened to become self-consciously "poetic" and Aidan Kelly's dourly dangerous Howie Lee was speaking in a dialect that made hard-man Geordie sound like BBC English. But either the actor relented or my ears adjusted, because I had no difficulty following a tale that, far from sounding mannered, successfully yanked me into a vivid yet banal world of petty but ferocious vendettas.

Howie happily joins in the beating-up of his near-namesake, Rookie Lee, but, when he returns home, he finds that his small brother is dead, arguably because of his neglect. Then on comes Karl Shiels's Rookie and proceeds not just to elaborate the overall picture of Ireland's desolate fleshpots and rootless young, but to give us an oblique and oddly moving portrait of Howie's remorse and atonement.

Needless to say, this has nothing to do with confessions or prayers. It involves curing the infectious itch that has indirectly got Rookie into trouble with thuggish Ladyboy — "when he was born, his oul' dear threw away the body and raised the afterbirth" — and ensuring that Ladyboy never kneecaps anyone again. Shiels is the more mesmeric half of Mike Bradwell's cast, and his description of a fight that might be jointly derived from *The Iliad* and *Silence of the Lambs* rivets you with the clarity and crispness of its awfulness.

But then the play as a whole is strong enough to leave you feeling that, if this is a remotely representative picture of city life, the Irish Tourist Board would find it easier to sell the charms of Beirut or maybe no-go Moscow.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Angry young man: Karl Shiels as Rookie in Mark O'Rowe's *Howie the Rookie*

Love all too laboured and lost

The Other Shore
Warehouse, Croydon

Three neurotics are holed up in a remote Norfolk cottage on New Year's Eve. Alice, who is distraught from her husband's death, whiles away her time swinging back and forth over his grave, spouting airy-fairy metaphors about lost love. Her best friend, Leda, unexpectedly appears with her boyfriend Rory in tow. At first sight the outgoing opposites of Alice — she is spangly and chirpy, he is your average insensitive, adolescent male — these two soon break out in palavers of paranoia about being, respectively, dumped and smothered.

Writer Sarah Woods won plaudits for her last play *Grace*, but there is simply no making sense of this one. When Rory, having turned up laden with mountaineering equipment, climbs the cottage wall — at 6ft high hardly the north face of the Eiger — Leda has an absolute fit.

She is clingy, you see, though it is the first we know of it. Halfway through the first half he suddenly has a turn and runs off in search of whisky, apparently — though again this has not been flagged in the slightest — because he feels suffocated. He then comes back, starts giving Leda a good seeing to and runs off again, only to return drenched in mud from frantically searching up hill and down dale for her, while she has locked herself in the unlockable cellar.

It is not all Woods's fault: there is some lively detail, and you can just about detect something less bizarre underneath. But the cast and the director, Jenny Lee, make a meal of things. Both Adrienne O'Sullivan and Sam Troughton, as Leda and Rory, take their characters' petulant insecurities way over the top, spiriting sudden surges of anger out of nowhere. Troughton spends most of the evening licking his wounds on the roof of the cottage, with a half bottle of whisky for company: this is a man who is supposed to be desperate for freedom. Sarah-Jane Field as Alice is best, though she is more often trying than touching. Vaguely supernatural overtones (lots of spooky lighting and ghostly sound effects) and unnecessary symbolism add little.

The play is essentially about the need to give space to others: but for them all to wail that they are being killed, or are killing, or have killed with love seems absurdly melodramatic. At the end everyone is supposed to have learnt something from the experience. Difficult to know what, when no one involved seems to have a clue what is going on.

NIGEL CLIFF

MARILYN KINGWILL



Swing-driven thing: Adrienne O'Sullivan as Leda and Sam Troughton as Rory in *The Other Shore*

Swede and sour

JAZZ
Swedish Jazz Gala
Barbican

If this Barbican gala was designed to showcase the sheer variety of the current jazz scene in Sweden, then it was a success. An a cappella quintet, a Latin big band, an electric blues group and a mainstream clarinettist took the stage in rapid succession, producing everything from humorous novelty songs to the raunchiest 12-bar, drawing on rhythms from Uruguay and Brazil, New York, Los Angeles and the Mississippi delta — practically everywhere but Sweden — in the process.

The Real Group, with three male and two female voices, specialise in reproducing big-band arrangements, particularly those of Neal Hefti for the Basie orchestra. They are at their best when, having established the subtle Freddie Green chug that underlies such chestnuts as *Splanky* or the delicate lilt of *Li'l Darlin'*, they allow one of their number to "solo" in the manner of, say, trumpeter Wendell Culley, but the band originals veered uncomfortably close to MOR.

Both the **Hector Bingert Latin Lovers** and **Louise Hoffsten** suffered from the unsuitability of the venue to their acts.

Bingert coaxed a great deal of bluster from both his saxophone and his fearsomely loud band, but the suppleness of the South American rhythms in which he specialises was lost in the over-amplified mix. Hoffsten, similarly, did her valiant best to ignite the audience with her raunchy brand of blues, but — a powerhouse version of John Lee Hooker's *Serve Me Right to Suffer* aside — never looked like arousing anything but polite interest.

Putte Wickman, by contrast, relied entirely on unspectacular but confident musicianship to win over his listeners, his graceful clarinet gliding through the familiar changes of such fare as *Summertime* and *There is no Greater Love* with all the ease and elegance that come from more than five decades in the business.

As the climax to the week-long Swedish Jazz Extravaganza, this concert was certainly extravagant, and was mostly jazz — but Swedish? Music specific to a country seems increasingly hard to find in these times of instant artistic cross-pollination, but the undisputed elder statesman of Swedish jazz, **Arne Domnerus**, by splitting his masterful Ronnie Scott's set between Ellington and Swedish folk tunes, centred the festival in a manner the Barbican gala would have been well advised to emulate.

CHRIS PARKER

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

LE CID: After ten years Declan Donnellan directs Corneille's 1637 classic again, this time performed in French (with English surtitles). Received an ovation at the Avignon Festival.
Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111). Opens tonight, 8pm.

SPRING LOADED: Formerly a dancer with Rambert, DV8 and the Siobhan Davies Company and now a trendsetting choreographer, Jeremy James, joined by his exciting, young company, raises the curtain on the annual festival of contemporary dance.
The Place (0171-387 0031). Opens tonight, 8pm

LIPS TOGETHER, TEETH APART: Return of Terrence McNally's attractive play where two heterosexual couples find themselves celebrating the Fourth of July in a gay resort.
Orange Tree (0181-940 3633). Opens tonight 7.45pm

SONG RECITAL: The eloquent interpreter of German Lieder, English baritone Simon Keenlyside, continues the Wigmore Schumann Series. The programme also contains a selection of French songs by Poulenc, Debussy and Fauré. Malcolm Martineau accompanies on the piano.
Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). *Tonight, 7.30pm.*

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The Baroque specialist and conductor Nicholas McGegan makes a guest appearance with the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**. The evening offers Handel's Water Music preceded by Salieri's rarely heard Concerto for Flute and Oboe and Mozart's overture to Don Giovanni.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm

Simon Keenlyside sings Lieder at the Wigmore

MANCHESTER: Braham Murray directs David Threlfall in the title role of Peer Gynt in an ambitious combination of drama, dance and music to create Ibsen's poetic play anew.
Royal Exchange (0161-833 9833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm

NORWICH: After last year's brief but successful tour of the UK the graceful Russian dancers of the **St Petersburg Ballet Theatre** returns with four ballet classics, starting here with seven performances of The Nutcracker.
Theatre Royal (01603 630000). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

■ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's enjoyably intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs.
Duchess (0171-494 5075).

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

□ **THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE: THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY:** The Tricycle Theatre's gripping, shocking account of the sequence of (deliberate?) mistakes. Transfers to Victoria Palace March 3.
Theatre Royal, Stratford East (0181-534 0310).

□ **AND THE BROTHER TOO:** Eamon Morrissey returns to the inimitable comic writings of Flann O'Brien, revealing more about "Yer Man" and his curious view of the world.
Tricycle (0171-328 1000).

□ **HOWARD CRABTREE'S WHEN PIGS FLY:** Off-Broadway hit comedy about putting on a musical revue: emphasis on lavish costumes and difficult performers.
Arts Theatre (0171-836 3334).

□ **HOWIE THE ROOKIE:** Mark O'Rowe's account of Dublin's underworld feuds. Mike Bradwell directs Aidan Kelly and Karl Shields. See review, left
Bush (0181-743 3388).

□ **THE RAPE OF LUCRECE:** Thrilling staging of Shakespeare's poem by Theresa Shiban's Angelus Arts. A company of seven plus sensationally exotic music.
Union Theatre (0171-261 9876).

□ **TOAST:** Debut play by Richard Bean, set in a Hull bakery disturbed by a new arrival. Richard Wilson directs.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

□ **TALK OF THE CITY:** Stephen Poliakoff's fascinating play about BBC censorship in the 1930s. With David Westhead and Angus Wright.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable stitches a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. It's supremely well acted, but the comedy about survival in a death camp is at best nauseous.

YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS (18): Neil LaBute's withering, sex-obsessed comedy of manners tracks the anxieties of six yuppie thirtysomethings. The humour and cynicism knocks the stuffing out of Ally McBeal. With Nastassja Kinski and Aaron Eckhart

SWITCHBLADE SISTERS (18): Cheesy re-release of Jack Hill's cult film about teenage delinquents. A gang of sullen females terrorise hopeless police and God-fearing owners of greasy burger joints. The joy of Hill's film is never knowing how far he has his tongue in his cheek.

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG): Jenny Seagrove and Anthony Edwards star in a quirky Valentine comedy where they outwit the dastardly dentist, Charles Dance.

JACK FROST (PG): Michael Keaton comes back to life as a snowman to spend quality time with his son. The heatwave doesn't come quick enough. Directed by Troy Miller.

MY GIANT (PG): Sleazy film agent Billy Crystal discovers a Romanian giant and whips him off to star in bad movies in Hollywood. Big ego trip for Crystal, bad move for everyone else. Michael Lehmann directs.

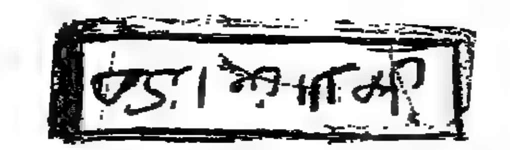
HOTEL DU NORD (PG): Marcel Carné's bitter-sweet 1938 classic about two sets of Parisian lovers has fabulous performances from Louis Jouvet and Arletty.

CURRENT

HIDEOUS KINKY (15): Kate Winslet plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the hippie trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beautifully shot film by Gillies MacKinnon with Saïd Taghmaoui, Bella Riza and Carrie Mullan.

PECKER (15): John Waters's satire on the art world lacks his usual bite but there are enough bad-taste moments to keep the humour bubbling.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thrilling romantic comedy with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.



Labour, back to its bad old ways

Roy Hattersley on the relapse to block votes and ballot rigging

So it has come to this. After all the fine talk about returning power to the people, Labour has abandoned the one reform which gave power to its own rank-and-file members. Blairism dictates that, in principle, democracy must be extended at every level. But, in practice, that means only so long as Tony Blair can be guaranteed the result which he wants. Nicolae Ceaucescu did not live in vain. Elections begin with the identification of the winning candidate. The voting system is then adjusted to guarantee the desired result.

Few people doubt that the Welsh Labour Party wants to be led into May's assembly elections by Rhodri Morgan. Were a choice to be made on the principle of one member one vote — the principle by which Tony Blair became leader — Morgan would be the landslide winner. But Labour has reverted to the worst sort of electoral college. The big unions — most of which have not bothered to ballot their members — will cast their entire block vote for a single candidate while scarcely considering his rival's merits. They will follow Downing Street's instruction in the hope that Alun Michael gets the job. If that happens, then Michael will have been handed it by Tony Blair.

On all the available evidence, most Welsh members of the Transport and General Workers Union want Morgan to head Labour's campaign in Wales. Yet the union's Cardiff leadership decided to support Michael. The explanation of such conduct is even more damaging to Labour's reputation than the decision itself. George Wright, the T&G's Welsh secretary, told last night's *Panorama* that "devolution is minor to the Westminster Government". That view will certainly be reproduced on Plaid Cymru posters when the election comes and their leaflets will probably repeat the rest of Mr Wright's views on the subject. "We backed Blair and we backed the Labour Government. Ten times more important than the Welsh assembly."

It is not only devolution that Mr Wright holds cheap. He is no more enthusiastic for democracy. A week earlier he had explained that he could not ballot his individual members on the subject of assembly leadership without borrowing money from the London head office — an indignity he would not impose on the principality. Last night, his position had changed. He did not even "prefer" to operate one member one vote. And he explained why. "The main reason is that it is not, surprisingly enough, a priority for us." It was not clear if he was downgrading devolution or democracy. Either way, it is a sad reflection on how the Labour Party works these days.

Yet it is barely five years since John Smith fought — and just won — the historic battle for one member one vote. And now, John Prescott — whose irresistible, incomprehensible summing up may well have made the difference between defeat and victory — looks on while the idea is cast aside in deference to the Prime Minister's passion for uniformity and his strange fear of the slightest dissent. Have no doubt that pleasing the Prime Minister is the motive for most of those trade union leaders who are supporting Alun Michael. AEU delegates who were interviewed on *Panorama* were explicit: "Tony Blair came out against Rhodri Morgan." So Michael gets every one of the union's 60,000 votes. When we hear Mr Blair tell party members: "Don't let the media run this election" the sub-text is obvious enough. He is determined to run it — and decide the winner — himself.

Yet he has nothing to fear from the defeat of Alun Michael. Rhodri Morgan is not a wild left-winger. Indeed, when he first entered Parliament, he was thought to be on the right of the Tribune group, which counted one Tony Blair among its members. His crime is to understand and believe in devolution. By its nature, devolution means that sometimes Cardiff will disagree with London. If the Prime Minister is not prepared to risk the leader of the Welsh assembly arguing for Wales, he is denying the purpose of the assembly's existence. And Welsh voters will understand that he does not intend to pass power from Westminster and Whitehall.

> The Welsh dragon is being turned into a poodle

The same unhappy realisation will dawn on the voters of London if Ken Livingstone is denied the chance to stand in the election which chooses Labour's candidate for mayor. I am not a Livingstone enthusiast. He drove me to fury by obscuring the important work done by the Greater London Council with acts of childish self-promotion. Years later he is no closer to being a grown-up politician. His "vote for Ken" rally in Westminster last night armed only his critics. Voting for the candidate who is not Ken Livingstone is decent, democratic behaviour. But rigging the shortlist to ensure that nobody can vote for him would be a disgrace for which Labour would pay dearly in the mayoral election.

The nation is entitled to ask why the Prime Minister has such an obsessive determination to control every policy debate, every item of patronage, every decision about presentation and every choice of candidate. He is not a control freak; that is a psychiatric condition and his determination to dominate is absolutely rational. He believes that the way to win the next election is to avoid even a hint of deviation from his "project". No dissent. No diversions. It is another example of his central belief and only philosophy. The purpose of politics is winning. And he does not seem to mind the casualties that he causes along the way. One may well be the highly able Alun Michael. What sort of a future can he expect as a poodle badly disguised to look like a Welsh dragon?

comment@the-times.co.uk



What every baby knows

Don't let guilty folk memories deny single mothers the shelter they crave

Libby Purves

There should be a name for the administrative paralysis which is brought on by a fear of historic evils repeating themselves. Yesterphobia, perhaps? Retro-dread? It is a recurring phenomenon: there you are, bowling merrily along afire with a new idea, and abruptly somebody points out a parallel between the new plan and something which went wrong in an earlier and crueller age. Whereon everyone gets depressed and obscurely ashamed, and the new idea is tarnished before it is even properly turned out of the mould.

Sometimes retrophobia is useful. The horrors of Nazi eugenics make us wary of new reproductive technology; the history of cholera and typhoid keep public utilities up to the mark. But everyone has a private list of times that it has worked against sense. You might say that it was not really a fear of power cuts which made pre-1980 governments unreasonably indulgent towards the National Union of Mineworkers, but rather the historic guilt left to us by Victorian mine owners. A few bars of *The Gresford Pit Disaster* from a folk singer is very effective in melting away any will to fight against a man with coal dust on his hands.

The same applies to means testing: the most cautious attempt to steer benefits towards the genuinely poor inevitably evokes stone-faced officials scolding claimants for keeping a pet cat when they could be eating the fish-heads themselves, or owning one more chair than the number of people in the family. The introduction of prescription charges — albeit with wide exemptions — elicited a torrent of largely irrelevant reminiscence about infants dying for fear of the doctor's bill. Attempts to reintroduce factual knowledge into education leads to cries of Gradgrind. The most timid observation that a 15-year-old truant might be better off working is generally enough to provoke an accusation that the speaker wants to send seven-year-olds up chimneys and light the fire beneath them.

Old shames, old traumas, hang around a long time. "Never again!" is a powerful reformer's cry, and so it should be; but 50 years on it can lead to a situation where nobody is willing to do anything, however sensible, which might possibly lead to an accusation of "putting the clock back". Look at the mess we are in over mental patients: because of the grim asylums and vindictive incarceration of bygone times, we now find it excruciatingly hard to admit that, for a few poor souls, institutions are kinder and safer than "community" can ever be.

Retrophobia, however, is on the wane. It was one of Margaret Thatcher's peculiar and rather alarming strengths that she was sufficiently insensitive to be immune to it. She even risked the famous line about Victorian Values. Her legacy is that, now, even a Labour Prime Minister feels able to tweak the tails of sacred cows and think the unthinkable (and, indeed, to hobnob prodigally with the Very Fat Man Who Waters the Workers' Beer, but that's another story). Anyway, the latest bit of governmental unthinkabilia is that young, unsupported mothers could do with a network of hostels, one in every town, to shelter them and their babies while they study or find work.

It is brave of the Social Exclusion Unit to bring this one up again, especially so soon after Margaret Thatcher's derided remarks about handing such girls over to Churches to look after. The immediate and inevitable reaction in some quarters will be to raise the shadow of a Victorian Home for Fallen Women, where sad, shamed figures scrubbed stone floors and were told to be grateful for it; and, more recently, of certain mother-and-baby homes of the Sixties, where unmarried mothers were dumped by their shocked parents, lectured daily on their sinfulness, made to breastfeed a baby doomed to adoption, and then shut in a locked room on the day the adoptive parents drove it away.

All these things were real; although even in the 1950s and 1960s there were also kindly, companionable homes of which the inmates carry fond memories. I was in a Sheffield side-street once, watching a Salvation Army procession and service. Next to me stood a middle-aged woman from one of the little houses, with a tired, good-natured face. I said something inane about the music brightening up the dull morning, and she volunteered that it wasn't just the music that brought her out of doors.

"I like the Sallies," she said. "Reminds me of happy days, in the mother-and-baby home when I was 17, with my first. We had some good laughs there." They found her a job, and after she left "they used to drop by, and the baby always had a present at Christmas". The praying, she observed, was a bit wearing, as she was "not that way inclined", but of the human experience of the home she had only happy memories: the sort of hard-times, giggly, girlish memories that most of us bring away from college halls of residence or first flatshares.

Hostels could work. Nobody is suggesting that a young woman's stay there would be compulsory, or very long; the idea seems to be that they could serve for a transitional period while she finished training, or found a job, and got used to the baby. Medical services and an experienced warden would minimise the terror of coping alone with spots and scares; co-operative babysitting could permit the odd night out. Accommodation could be of decent student standard, with shared cooking and common-room but reasonable bedsit privacy. You could have the option (which a lot of married new mothers would be grateful for) of a hot evening meal made by someone else. Above all, you could make friends, girls in the same boat as yourself. It would not be such a bad life; better than a bad flat in a bad block, with too little money and only successive baby-hating boyfriends for company.

There will, of course, be resistance from some girls, stiffened by retrophobia. It was fascinating to read in this paper yesterday the comment of Sami Khatum, who moved into a flat alone at 17 with her baby. She loathed the idea. "In a mother-and-baby unit you would feel you were being judged and looked down upon. You would have to do everything by their rules and they could treat you like a child," she said. Yet she uses the Newpin day centre for parenting classes and personal development courses; she goes there most days and says it "builds up her confidence". So it is not the idea of help and advice that repels Sami, just the fear of not having her own front door to close, and of being judged and bossed.

Such fears could be dispelled. Any college student knows that you can live in a bedsitter and still have a lock on your door and a sense of self-determination and privacy. Any day-centre mother knows that you can accept support and take advice without abandoning your dignity. Most important of all is the company: at all ages, married or not, new mothers need other mothers. From sink estate to affluent commuter village, watch them band together in networks and clubs and playgroup circles. It is a process as natural as birth itself.

So hostels could work, if the word on the street said that they were not bad places to spend a year or so. It is not long, after all, since some kind of hostel or dormitory life was part of everyone's experience: National Service, a YWCA, a boarding-house, college, or just a big, quarrelsome flatshare. It is a very recent idea (enthusiastically fostered by the housebuilding trade) that everyone, however young or single, needs to be a sole occupier. It is actually a rather lonely, unfriendly, unnatural state; if you are tied to a baby, a frighteningly claustrophobic one. So if they are tactful and liberal and entrusted to sensible organisations such as Newpin, rather than thin-lipped functionaries with a mania for rules, the new hostels could make babies safer, young mothers more hopeful, and memories happier.

But that would have to be their mission statement. They won't work if their agenda is deterrence, punishment, or cheapskate Treasury savings. Any baby could tell you that.

comment@the-times.co.uk

Frail old men with thick, foreign accents are tried for crimes committed half a century earlier. This does not teach any useful moral lesson

James Heartfield

The dead need memorials, but the Statute Book is not the place to erect them. This week a British jury has travelled to Belarus to hear evidence in the trial of a 77-year-old retired railwayman. The crimes for which Anthony Sawoniuk stands accused took place in that country in 1942. But the law under which he is prosecuted was passed in this country in 1991. The War Crimes Act is retrospective, and extra-territorial. It was not passed to redress an injustice in any ordinary sense of the word. It does not satisfy a legal need, but seeks to assuage a political appetite. And it thus stands uneasily with the values for which the Second World War was fought.

For the German Culture Minister, Michael Naumann, the continuing British fascination with that war seems like a national personality disorder, an example of obsessive-compulsive behaviour from a country that cannot wash its hands of the past. But his exasperation at the weekend was misplaced. The Sawoniuk trial, the most dramatic current illustration of the war's capacity to grab the national imagination, is not evidence of a continuing obsession, but a symptom of two very modern phenomena.

The first is the itch to use laws as wreaths. In our emotionally correct age victims can win any argument by appeal to the High Court of grief, which always finds for suffering over logic. In the aftermath of the Dunblane tragedy the laws which were passed to govern handgun ownership were sombre Acts of Piety not sober Acts of Parliament. The need to show we sympathised overwhelmed other considerations. Hard cases make bad laws. But so do soft hearts.

The War Crimes Bill, which preceded the handgun legislation, was another attempt to use the law to show sympathy. No one can deny the enormity of the crimes it sought to address. But no law could satisfy the emotional needs embodied in the War Crimes Bill. It is not possible to put evil on trial, only men. A Court of Law cannot re-run historical events, it can only punish people for what they did. And in the case of these trials the real danger exists that people will be punished to satisfy an emotional need, whether they are guilty or not.

The other modern development which was reflected in the War Crimes legislation is our growing cultural fascination with the Holocaust. As the memory of the event itself recedes, Holocaust films, plays, documentaries and museums increase in number. The definitive film of the decade, *Schindler's List*, has inspired others, such as the Oscar-nominated Italian feature *Life is Beautiful*. From the Washington Museum to the Berlin memorial, the public appetite for recollections of the Holocaust is growing. The fascination permeates popular culture. Television advertisements are currently running for a new magazine devoted entirely to the Nazi horror.

It is right that we should never forget. But the culture of remembering is more than just recalling brute facts. It demands critical engagement. The current fascination with the Holocaust is a product of the demand for moral absolutes. When so much else seems uncertain it provides a kind of comfort to know that there are some things which are black and white. If we can be sure of nothing else, we can be sure that the Holocaust was wrong. From the Anti-Nazi League to Margaret Thatcher, everyone agreed that the Holocaust should not be forgotten. With the war crimes law, the hope was that unalloyed evil would be put in the dock.

Instead, frail old men with thick, foreign accents are put on trial for crimes allegedly committed half a century earlier. These recent trials do not teach any useful moral lesson. If anything, they make a mockery of the real importance of the Holocaust. The original Nuremburg hearings had gravitas, with the Nazi elite such as Goering and Hess in the dock. Today we have a sorry spectacle of pensioners on trial. History repeats itself — the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.

These elderly East Europeans, even if guilty, are hardly representative of the might of Nazi Germany. German historians have been trying to pass the blame for the Holocaust onto the backward culture of Eastern Europe for years — as if the Nazis' atrocities were just an example of "going native". They must be thrilled to see those accused of being Ukrainian gofers carrying the can.

Anthony Sawoniuk might be guilty or not. But his trial will not test evidence in any normal sense. Instead, the witnesses have been historians, debating the interpretation of past events. It is a trial that cannot meet the emotional demands behind the 1991 law, because those needs are beyond adjudication.

comment@the-times.co.uk

THE TIMES DIARY

Back to school

ERIC ANDERSON, the man of letters who shaped Tony Blair as a schoolboy, is returning to Eton. He is poised, I hear, to take over from Sir Antony Acland as Provost, relinquishing his position as Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford.

Anderson taught the future PM at Fettes College. Blair later described him as his favourite teacher. Anderson went on to be a highly successful Head Master at Eton before arriving at Lincoln in 1994. But Poppy, his wife, yearns to return: "She is not finding the same scope at Oxford. Wives of the heads of colleges are rather frozen out."

The Provost is the resident governors's chairman, whose name is picked by the Fellows, his colleagues. Anderson will be one of the few non-Etonians in the post. But his appointment will no doubt progress smoothly as the final decision is made by No 10.

● *THE Cairngorm Whisky Company has launched a new brand, the Glenhoddle. Professional critics say, however, it tastes "immature" and lacks "strength of character".*

Who knows?

AN ANCIENT Rembrandt has inspired a contemporary diagnosis. Professor Robert Bourne, an Australian oncologist, says he has spotted a malignant skin cancer on the nose of *Man in Oriental Costume* (above), painted in 1637. "I can see a clear basal cell carcinoma there," he tells me. "It is possible to tell because the painting equals a clinical photograph in its clarity."



● *SIR CLIFF RICHARD is to prove his manhood by going head-to-head against Kelvin MacKenzie on Radio 4. The softly spoken happy-clapper will confront the candid head of Talk Radio to discuss the future of the music industry.*

Fair cop

CAROLINE FLINT has all the right qualifications to act as the new Parliamentary Adviser to the Police Federation: the Labour MP once caught an armed bank robber.

In 1994, when she was a trade union researcher, she and Phil Cole, her partner, were in a bank hold-up. As the gunman fled, the duo tripped him up, hit him over the head and held him down until the police arrived. They then helped to send the robber down for ten years. Her reward? A £15,000 retainer from the federation.



● *JOHN EDMONDS knows how to fire in style. The GMB union boss asked his chauffeur to deliver a dismissal letter to the home of Warren Glover. The former union toiler was sacked after he questioned the level of treatment dished out to Mick Fisher, a GMB employee and Edmonds chum, after it was claimed that he had shoved a colleague.*

Trashed

JEREMY IRONS and Sinead Cusack are in trouble for littering the Irish countryside. Cork County Council discovered they have been leaving rubbish on a crossroads two miles from Kilcoe Castle, their home, because they are not on the dustbin rounds. "We know it's theirs," I am told, "because we go through all dumped rubbish."

JASPER GERARD



NO TIME FOR NOES

Unionists must not falter now

The essence of leadership according to Harold Wilson, at least in the Labour Party, was to drive so fast that there was no space for dissidents to argue over direction. How David Trimble must wish he could accelerate events in Northern Ireland. The Ulster Unionist leader presides over a fissiparous party which threatens to deny him the clear-cut majority he needs to advance. Later today the Northern Ireland Assembly should vote on the shape and structure of the Province's future government. The process of negotiation which culminated in its construction was long, and fraught; enough to cause some members of Mr Trimble's party grave concern.

Those concerns reflected an understandable fear that nationalist Ireland had pressed its claims too vigorously during talks. But that fear should not be allowed to obscure a greater truth. The more comprehensive the Unionist support for the deal, which bears Mr Trimble's name, the stronger will be his authority when it comes to the greatest challenge ahead — insisting on the disarmament of the IRA.

For many within Ulster's pro-union majority the peace process has been a conveyor-belt of concessions. The reach and scope of nationalist Ireland's say in a part of the United Kingdom has grown. Paramilitary prisoners have been released early. The Royal Ulster Constabulary faces potentially painful change. And still the IRA has refused to acknowledge the yearning for peace by surrendering its arms. But it would be wrong for discontented Unionists to register their dissent by voting against the package presented to them today. It would be worse than a crime, it would be a mistake.

The more Unionists who vote No today, the easier it will be for Republicans to wriggle out of their responsibilities. By supporting Mr Trimble, Unionists will show that they are sincere, and generous, in wishing to accommodate every legitimate nationalist concern about the future administration of the Province. Unionists will be seen to have swallowed doubts about detail for the sake of a greater prize. And by suppressing their own objections they will have left, starkly obvious, the real obstacle to progress — the IRA's arsenal.

Ministers have been told, in clear terms, that today's vote cannot be used to authorise the entry of Sinn Fein into a new government of Northern Ireland unless and until decommissioning begins. Those Unionists who fear that a Yes vote today will trigger an invitation to Gerry Adams to take his place in a ministerial limousine should recognise that such a call would result in David Trimble's refusal to acquiesce any further in the process. If his party backs Mr Trimble solidly today he will be able to claim he has done more than anyone to further partnership in the Province but cannot be asked to accept armed terrorists in his government.

Pressure is already building on the IRA. The campaign against "punishment beatings" has deprived them of support even in their heartland, and limited their room for operational manoeuvre. The Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, whatever his apparent equivocations, has still underlined the clear moral and political imperative for decommissioning before Sinn Fein can exercise administrative power.

The IRA are being pushed into a corner. Unionists should heed Harold Wilson's injunction and press home their advantage today without hesitation. They must not falter now.

STRAW'S JUDGMENT

A delicate balance between liberty and security

...ere the rights of the individual and the ...d to protect society meet, a dilemma ...aits every Home Secretary. Yesterday, ...k Straw confronted this conundrum ...en he outlined proposals to protect the ...blic from people with dangerous person...y disorders. In future, Mr Straw would ... the courts to have the power to order ...indefinite, but reviewable, detention of ...h individuals. Crucially, this power ...uld apply to people whether or not they ...l committed an offence. Mr Straw ...nned libertarians and left the Conserva...s aghast. Once again, the Home ...retary has ventured where few of his ...y predecessors would have dared go. ... beneath the populist rhetoric, the ...ne Secretary has entered into a moral ...e which, unless he is careful, could ...y entrap him.

...present, individuals with non-treata...ersonality disorders slip through the ...between hospital — where they can ...be detained if they are diagnosed as ...table" — and prison, where they can ...remain for the duration of their ...nce. High profile cases have added ...acy to Mr Straw's call to close this ...ole. Michael Stone, the murderer of ...nd Megan Russell, was known to be a ...er to society and pleaded to be ...tted to hospital. The paedophile ...rt Oliver had to be released from ...n after serving his sentence. Classified ...not mad", he could not be held in a ...e mental asylum.

...long as there are "regular quasi-judi...eviews covering both the legal and ...al issues", as Mr Straw proposes, ...some libertarians might grudgingly support the indefinite detention of individuals who have been found guilty of a crime and diagnosed as suffering from a personality disorder. Had the Home Secretary limited his plans to this, he would have had few critics. Yet his wish to allow a court to detain any individual with a "recognised severe personality disorder" who poses "a grave risk to the public" is, as the Home Secretary understates, "a very serious step" which can only be taken once a string of questions have been answered.

Mr Straw has promised to publish a consultative document, which will "outline in more detail" the problem and its solution. Top of those concerns is one raised by civil libertarians. They argue that individuals will be detained not for what they have done, but what they might do, and on the basis that they are suffering from a "personality disorder", the definition of which is a contestable matter. According to the mental health charity MIND, it is a condition which afflicts over one in ten of the population. The paper will need to address this, as well indicating whether these individuals should be treated in prison, in separate units attached to prisons, or in new units built for the task.

The Home Secretary will have few excuses if he omits such fine print from the consultation paper. Whitehall has been considering this area of policy for years, as has Mr Straw himself. When he was the Shadow Home Secretary, he published a consultation paper on this very subject. In such delicate areas as these, forethought and caution are essential requirements. Mr Straw, normally never short of both, must tread carefully.

A PALE PETITION

When views of the Parthenon are news and when not

...ling to Professor Anthony Snodgrass ...ur senior classical scholars at Oxford ...mbridge who wrote to The Times on ...ay, the British media have been ...ssing debate on the future of the ...Marbles. To those of our readers ...ink that we have already devoted an ...of argument to this cause, this may ...s surprise.

...scholars accused us and other ...al daily newspapers of "silence" over ...ion by the European Parliament ...on Britain to return the Marbles to .... The Government meanwhile was ...l of reneging on its pledges in ...ion.

...professor and his colleagues are ...scholars of ancient Greece and its ...t the modern world: they are well ...nter the complex labyrinth that has ...ided this issue for so many years. ...tter lacks that indignant demagogu...ch was Melina Mercouri's lasting ...ution from the 1970s and which has ...every Greek politician's subse...tempt to gain cheap patriotic votes. ...wo points that they raise deserve ... The answer to the "silence" charge ...epend on how much weight is ... to a petition in the European ...ent. A petition is a class of ...cements which carries little weight ...a body whose ability to translate ...s high-minded demands into law ...highly circumscribed.

...moval of the Parthenon Marbles ...ndon is a favourite theme for ...s, one regularly pushed by the ...s this one was, and by others who want a precedent to force their own claims on foreign museums. Just over two years ago MEPs called for the Marbles' restitution. Neither then, nor now, did they have any authority over the frieze. Nor has the International Court of Justice, or the European Court of Human Rights, any better locus. To ignore this latest vote was simply a judgment of what is, and is not, news.

The signatories complain that Labour has gone back on an earlier promise. That promise was from Neil Kinnock, a man as susceptible to the sound of Greek rhetoric as to his own, and is still backed by some Labour MPs. Tony Blair's Government has disavowed Mr Kinnock and his supporters so often that a decision to agree with him would be more newsworthy than the opposite. The Government position — that restitution and its subsequent effects on the world's museums would be a "disaster for world culture" — is a strong and principled one, relying neither on arguments about how the hard-pressed Greeks already struggle to care for their massive stock of antiquities nor on the legalisms used by Lord Elgin and the Turks, still less on what the scholars describe as "lofty disdain for the European Union and all its works".

The British Museum has, over two centuries, given access to a frieze that has been seen and enjoyed by millions, extending classical inspiration and values in a way that all lovers of Greece ought to applaud even if Greek politicians, and their followers, do not. It should continue to do so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ethnic quotas for police questioned

From the Shadow Home Secretary

Sir, Your report of February 10 suggests that the Home Secretary is to impose a national target for recruiting police officers from ethnic minorities; and also that he intends to punish officers convicted of serious disciplinary offences by cutting their pensions by up to 75 per cent. Both these measures would be in conflict with other policies pursued by the Government.

The strength of many police forces in this country is now falling. Ministers, however, claim that this is not a matter for them. They do not even have a view on the strength of the Metropolitan Police in London, where the Home Secretary is still the police authority.

The most recent statement of government policy came in the debate on the police grant on February 4, when the Home Office Minister, Mr Boateng, said that the strength of forces was entirely a decision for chief constables. He said: "Now the Shadow Home Secretary wants to make numbers a matter for me and . . . the Home Secretary. However we do not intend to allow him to do so."

Is it then to be the Government's policy that it will require targets on the recruitment from ethnic minorities but will have no view on how strong any force should be?

On the question of police pensions, the whole trend of policy of this Government and the last has been to recognise the rights of members of pension schemes. Members of a scheme have an entitlement to a pension and the amount of the pension is built up over their working lives.

I do not defend policemen who are found guilty of serious disciplinary offences. I do question whether cutting a policeman's pension by up to 75 per cent can be justified as the penalty.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN FOWLER,
House of Commons.
February 12.

From Mr Michael Plumbe

Sir, It is outrageous that Jack Straw should impose ethnic minority quotas on recruitment to the police force. Of all organisations, this is the one where appointment and promotion must be made solely on merit and suitability for the job.

Quotas have been tried in the United States. The results have been "reverse discrimination" against "ethnic majority" candidates, a lowering of standards because often the best man for the job was passed over, and charges that the mix of different races was unfair to a particular one.

How does Straw propose to define a member of an ethnic minority? Would someone of "mixed race" count as half a person in his 7 per cent?

Straw is himself being racist, in the worst possible way, by promoting one set of groups as against another.

Yours lividly,
MICHAEL PLUMBE
(Chairman, Executive Committee),
Society for Individual Freedom,
104 Drive Mansions, SW6 5JH.
February 10.

From Mr Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East (Labour)

Sir, Jack Straw is to be congratulated on his latest initiatives in the fight against racism in the police force. However, what is needed is not just for black and Asian people to be brought into the police, but for them to rise to the highest ranks. Only when we see a number of black or Asian chief constables in place will we know that the fight against racism is almost won.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH VAZ,
House of Commons.
February 10.

Medical negligence

From Ms Tracey Brown

Sir, Mr Nigel Harris (letter, February 3) may perceive a fall in standards in orthopaedic cases, but this does not make a convincing explanation of the rising willingness to initiate claims for medical negligence. I doubt there is a fall in standards in obstetrics, where claims and compensation awards are also increasing.

The machinery put in place since the 1989 government proposals, Working for Patients, includes the Patient's Charter, new complaints procedures and better, more widely promoted access to legal advice. At the same time, there does seem to be a greater readiness to claim when treatment is unsuccessful. The reasons why people sue need much more investigation and litigation cannot be dismissed as a simple comment on the standards of treatment.

Where standards are low, fear of litigation is an inadequate means of improving them. Aside from being an arbitrary way to regulate services and compensate injury, litigation can lead to defensive practice and, for instance, in the case of independent midwifery, it has led to almost no practice at all.

Yours faithfully,
TRACEY BROWN
(Social researcher),
Department of Sociology,
University of Kent,
Canterbury CT2 7NS.
t.brown@ukc.ac.uk
February 3.

Elgin Marbles in world context

From the Editor of Current Archaeology

Sir, Recently I met a young Guatemalan lawyer (and keen archaeologist) who was on his first visit to England. He had been to the British Museum, and was amazed. Here, for the first time, he had seen a world museum and had been able to get an overall view of world cultures: having seen the Elgin Marbles (letter, February 13) and so many other world antiquities all at the same time, he could begin to put the Maya antiquities from Guatemala into their proper context.

It simply does not make sense for every country only to possess the antiquities of that country's past. What is the point of having Greek antiquities only in Greece, Egyptian antiquities in Egypt, and Chinese objects only in China? Is it not better that everyone should be encouraged to learn about other countries' pasts, to see how their own country fits in? We have seen only too clearly in this century where obsessive nationalism leads.

Professor Anthony Snodgrass and his co-authors are firing in precisely the wrong direction. It is the Greek Government that they should be addressing, urging a change in its laws to allow the reasonable export of at least a proportion of all antiquities excavated.

Only in this way will those in Guatemala be able to acquire some Greek antiquities and be able to understand their own Mayan antiquities, and to enable the Greeks to learn something about the Maya.

We need to have more dispersion of antiquities — not less.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW SELKIRK,
Editor,
Current Archaeology,
9 Nassington Road, NW3 2TX.
February 15.

From Mr Philip Mottram

Sir, It is sad to see eminent classicists urging the departure from these shores of the finest relics of the classical world. Even today thousands are inspired by visiting these marbles, so wonderfully presented, which have always received a stewardship in accordance with the best practices of the day.

Their return would surely open a Pandora's box in every major museum in the European Union. Every country would then be claiming whatever had originated within its borders.

The glory of the marbles' current setting is its proximity to collections covering the whole of classical and Near Eastern culture. Their context and influences can be seen much better in London than in the single-theme museum suggested in Athens. But their influence has grown so greatly beyond Greece that it is hard to think of a better setting, which will be improved further in the coming years. They are now part of the European culture.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP J. MOTTRAM,
15 Freewaters Close, Ickleford,
Hertfordshire SG5 3TQ.
February 15.

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, It is crucial to understand that the Elgin Marbles are legally the property of the trustees of the British Museum, who own them on behalf of the nation.

They cannot be disposed of without Parliament repealing the British Museum Act, with all the consequences that this might entail for our main museums and galleries.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
Flat 1, 10 Bury Street,
St James's SW1Y 6AA.
February 13.

Case for Longbridge

From Mr Richard Burden, MP for Birmingham Northfield (Labour)

Sir, The article by William Rees-Mogg, "Rover is going nowhere" (February 8), makes a number of important points about over-capacity in the car industry. There is a strong global challenge that must be met. But he is wrong to write off Longbridge's role in that process.

There are productivity issues to address, but Lord Rees-Mogg takes no account of the ground-breaking agreement struck late last year between the trade unions and BMW management, providing for radical changes in working practices and flexible working.

These changes were agreed in return for the investment by BMW to make Longbridge a world-class factory with a new model range. BMW has already committed itself to build the new Mini at Longbridge. For BMW itself to remain globally competitive going into the next century, though, it also needs to produce a new high-volume, small-to-medium range, front-wheel-drive car. It would make sound business sense to do this at Longbridge — a site with considerable expertise in this field.

But the sums are huge, and alternative sites could be promoted not only outside Britain but outside the EU. That is why Government must also back the investment at Longbridge. Fifty thousand jobs and the livelihood of entire communities in my constituency and surrounding areas depend on Longbridge. It deserves the support of all of us and success into the new century.

Yours,
RICHARD BURDEN,
House of Commons.
February 15.

Isles for sale

From Mr Uisdean Michie

Sir, Andrew Eames's interesting article on the sale of three Scottish islands ("Fancy a Hebridean isle?", Homes, February 3) concluded with an erroneous speculation that the sale could stop the local families visiting where their parents once lived.

Outside ownership, whether by foreigners, expatriates, or Scottish or other British residents, could not legally prevent visits to the islands, except named exclusion for a specific offence — as generally applies to access to other Scottish Highland estates. There is not yet an official "right to roam" but there is no "right to general exclusion" in Scotland, where there previously was general access to "common" land.

Additionally, the Barra families who are selling the islands are described as crofters, a term which previously implied a form of secure tenancy. Sale of land, even by crofting owners, does not extinguish crofting rights, especially to the commonly shared land such as sheep-grazing areas. Ownership of land in the active crofting areas confers only limited powers to treat the land as an exclusive personal possession.

Access to the islands can continue to be enjoyed by the local people — limited only by the physical inaccessibility of these southernmost of the Western Isles (Eilean nan Iar).

Yours sincerely,
UISDEAN MacLEOD MICHIE,
21 Dunster Road,
West Bridgford, NG2 6JF.
February 4.

Organ removal

From Dr Alexander Fernandez

Sir, I have much sympathy with the families of children who were operated on at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and who have learned that organs were removed without the knowledge and consent of the parents (report, February 11).

Our second child was born with a very abnormal heart at a time when corrective surgery was not available. We had a very worrying three months, caring for him at home and watching him die.

We were not told if his heart or other organs were retained for further study. We hope that they were, and that as a consequence other children will have benefited from the study and knowledge derived from them.

Heart surgery has made great strides since then. As a young doctor the availability of specimens was of great importance to me, enabling me, I hope, to have become a better doctor.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER FERNANDEZ,
Sea Thrift,
Greenway,
Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3EY.
February 11.

Pocket Pevsners?

From Mr Graeme Woolaston

Sir, I am delighted to learn from "Diary and Letters" (Books, February 11) that Nikolaus Pevsner's wonderful guides to English architecture are being put online, so enabling anyone with a laptop, a modem, and a mobile phone to gain instant access to information about any country church or building they happen to be visiting.

Nonetheless, the equipment involved is a tad cumbersome. Couldn't technology come up with a more portable means of conveying the information, which might even fit into one's pocket?

Yours faithfully,
GRAEME WOOLASTON,
10 Uist Crescent,
Stepps, Glasgow G33 6BG.
February 11.

Road manners

From Mr Edwin C. Carter

Sir, Vicki Butler-Henderson has advised her readers to practise skidding round corners and not to bother stopping at junctions ("The Fast Lady", Go, January 16, February 6); these would seem contradictory to her suggestion that "lessons in sympathy for other road users" be included in driving tests.

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN C. CARTER,
Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL.
ecc25@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

International debt for G7 agenda

From the Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, On February 20 the Chancellor will attend a G7 finance ministers' meeting in Bonn to prepare for the next summit of leaders of the world's richest countries in Cologne in June.

The ministers must ensure that international debt is put high on the summit agenda. In recent years, a growing international consensus has led to a new initiative to help the world's poorest countries saddled with unsustainable debt burdens. But so far it has delivered far too little, too late.

No one wants to see debt relief squandered on arms or dissipated through corruption, instead of helping the poorest people. But some highly indebted poor countries would be willing and able to spend the money saved on properly managed poverty alleviation and development programmes. They should be given far more generous debt relief now.

Taking decisive action to tackle debt by the jubilee year 2000 has fired the imaginations of ordinary people across the world. They know that with sufficient political will a yoke can be lifted from the necks of many of the world's poorest people as we cross the threshold of a new millennium.

The politicians must not fail them. If they seize the moment at the G7 summit by providing more resources and linking debt relief with poverty reduction goals, they will have taken a vital step towards the agreed OECD target of halving the proportion of the world's population living in absolute poverty by 2015. And they will have given us all another important reason to celebrate the millennium.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HUME,
Archbishop's House,
Westminster, SW1P 1QJ.
February 12.

Queen's governess

From Mr K. C. E. Ellison Davis

Sir, Although Queen Victoria had every reason to be grateful to Louise Lehzen, it was her uncle, George IV, who in 1827 created that remarkable daughter of a Lutheran clergyman a (Hanoverian) baroness (report, February 6). The gentleman behind the conferment was none other than her later bitter adversary Sir John Conroy, who felt that it would lessen the criticism expressed in some quarters that a mere Fräulein Lehzen was too lowly in rank to occupy the position of governess to the Princess.

Royalty has often shown itself less than willing to acknowledge its indebtedness to its servants. But on hearing of Baroness Lehzen's death, Queen Victoria did concede that she "owed her much". A. C. Benson and Viscount Esher, editors of The Letters of Queen Victoria 1837-1861 (1907), observed that the Baroness had had "a large share in forming the Queen's character".

A more recent writer, Lady Longford, in her impressive (1964) biography of the Queen Empress, went even further, commenting that the Baroness had "handed over to the nation a potentially great queen".

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH ELLISON DAVIS,
Brahms Straat 2,
1077 HG Amsterdam.
February 8.

From Miss Joanna Richardson

Sir, Baroness Lehzen was in fact the governess, not the "nanny", of the future Queen Victoria; and the photograph of "a young Queen Victoria with her beloved nanny" is a photograph of the Queen herself, in her widowhood, with a young member of her family.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA RICHARDSON,
55 Flask Walk, NW3 1EY.
February 7.

Death of Amy Johnson

From the Commodore of the Air Transport Auxiliary Association

Sir, Air Transport Auxiliary pilots did not fly with radio, so Amy Johnson could not have answered any "request made by radio for the colours of the day" (report, February 6).

Yours faithfully,
DIANA BARNATO WALKER,
Commodore,
Air Transport Auxiliary Association,
Horne Grange,
Horne, Surrey RH6 9LA.
February 8.

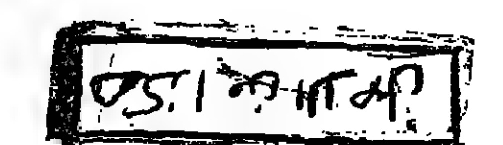
Early bird

From Mr Dean Bailey

Sir, At dawn this morning I observed a well-dressed gentleman examining the contents of the public litter-bins on the seafront. His strange behaviour was explained when he produced a pair of nail scissors from his waistcoat pocket and began cutting out the Books for Schools tokens from discarded crisp packets.

When I commended him on his initiative, he explained to me that if he began his search any later someone had usually been there before him.

Yours faithfully,
DEAN BAILEY,
6 Greenfield Court, West Hill Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 1NA.
February 10.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 15: The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended The Air League's 90th Anniversary Banquet at The Mansion House, City of London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, The Butler Trust, this morning visited HM Prison Castle Huntly, Longforgan, near Dundee, Perth and Kinross, and was received by Captain Andrew Gordon (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended the Scottish Equestrian Association's Scottish Equestrian Gathering and Young Achievers Day at the Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder, Perth and Kinross.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, later officially opened the Clackmannan District Bureau, at 47 Drysdale Street, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Clackmannanshire (Lieutenant Colonel Robert Stewart).

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 15: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the British Museum Society Appeal, this evening attended a Dinner at the Museum, London WC1.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor, will attend a reception to celebrate Cambridge University's partnership with industry and business at St James's Palace at 7.00.

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor, London University, will visit the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 10.30; will visit the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 29 Russell Square, London WC1, at 12.30; and will present the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers' Princess Royal Award at Buckingham Palace at 4.00

The Duke of Kent, as Trustee, the National Museum of Science and Industry, will attend a reception at Spencer House, London, SW1A at 6.30.

Princess Alexandra, President of Children's Country Holidays Fund, will attend the presentation of the "Investors in People" Award at FOCUS Central London Training and Enterprise Council, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1, at 2.00.

Birthdays today

Mr Paul Bailey, novelist, 62; Mr P.E.R. Bailey, former director, Gatwick and Stansted Airports, 74; Mr Iain Banks, author, 45; Mr James Beaton, GC, former Chief Superintendent, Metropolitan Police, 56; Professor Robin Clark, FRS, chemist, 64; Mr Arthur Crook, former Editor, *The Times Literary Supplement*, 87; Mr F.G.R. Cuming, painter, 69; Sir Anthony Dowell, ballet dancer, artistic director, Royal Ballet, 56; Mr David Emms, former Master, Dulwich College, 74; Professor J.R. Farndon, consultant surgeon, 53; Mr David Griffiths, portrait painter, 60; Viscount Hanworth, 53; Professor Jack Levy, mechanical engineer, 73; Mr John McEnroe, tennis player, 40; Sir Michael Milne-Watson, former chairman, BUPA, 89; Mr J.D. Moore, former Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, 56; Mr Peter Porter, poet, 70; Mr John Schlesinger, film director, 73; Sir James Swaffield, former director-general and Clerk to the GLC, 75; Sir Peter Webster, former High Court judge, 75; Mr Nunc Willcox, former Chairman, the Garrick Club, 72.

MBA Examination Results

The following Greenwich School of Management students were conferred with the degree of Master of Business Administration at the Congregation for the Conferment of Degrees of the University of Hull, February 4, 1999:

David Holland (with Distinction), Stine Juelner (with Distinction), Bolajoko Abidemi Tiwakalitu Afonja, Tauseef Akhtar, Oblageli Nkemdilim Anowi, Yasir Najam Ansari, Zeeshan Awan, Grace Mmayeneka Benedict, Tie Chen, Shin-Yi Sylvia Chou, Lena Ferdousi, Judy Kabura Gachathi, Sainabou Gaye, Karyn Goldsmith, Ghassan Hashani, Fatima Ilanchelian, Saghir Iqbal, Beatrice Iyamabu, Charles Kahogambe, Lisa Lau, Asheesh Mathur, Atkins Sandy Mensah, Chineze Uchenna Mgbemena, Hua Mu, Ian Leonard Murphy, Ashutosh Nangia, Zafrir Neaman, Kofi Nyamaah-Koffuor, Pamela Awele Okonkwo, Sunil Panchal, Jean Amanda Pascoe, Krutika B Patel, Amit Patwardhan, Rajiv Simon Peter, Robert John Potok, Sopapan Preugpaibul, Abiola Oyindamola Quadri, Dhamuja Ramalingam, Elsa Maria Redwood, Barrington Christopher Rose, Rufus Olubenga Salotun, Rajesh Shenoy, Rosemary Sithole, Olabisi Olufunke Sotinwa, Nicole Louise Shyamala Ananthy St George, Vinay Thirapatana, Luiz Tsuyoshi Yamamoto.

Bachelor of Science (Honours)

The following Greenwich School of Management students were conferred with the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) at the Congregation for the Conferment of Degrees of the University of Hull, February 4, 1999:

Robert Lars Rune Celsing (First Class), Malin Maria Masson (First Class), Anders Olof Nilsson (First Class), Frida Peterson (First Class), Wesley Derek Bruce Pollard (First Class), Makiko Abe, Thomas Agboife, Ahmad Awad Al-Otaibi, Mark Nii Akwei Ankrah, Pedro Luis Araujo Pereira, Kassim Babatunde, Suman Chohan, Jose Cristiano Ferreira De Andrade, Mary Harris, Emma Farzana Husseyn, Irina Ivanovic, I-Tung Lee, Vera Musonda, Harriet Namukwaya, Roman Neuhauser, Henrik Nilsson, Prince Albert Idliff Ofori, Dorothy Alice Olok, Lulzim Osmani, Valentina Ottaviano, Jeany Patel, Nishal Shah, Ibrahim Sissy, Simon Joseph Smith, Tomohiro Suyama, Benjamin Rhys Tempest, Maxine Rose Thomas, Samuel Koffie Williams, Wendy Eai-Lee Yeung.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.E.L. Cohen and Miss B.B. Tan
The engagement is announced between Toby, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Cohen, of Derby, and Bernadette, younger daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Tan, of Singapore.

The Hon Richard Curzon and Miss E.R.H. Maguire
The engagement is announced between Richard Francis Nathaniel, elder son of Viscount and Viscountess Scarsdale, of Kedleston, Derbyshire, and Emma Rachel Hilary, younger daughter of the late Mr Vincent Maguire and of Mrs Maguire, of Charlton, Wiltshire.

Mr R.J. Hunt and Miss G.C. Phillipson
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs John Hunt, of Pershore, Worcestershire, and Clare, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George Phillipson, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Mr T.R.B. McLachlan and Miss J.M. Oxley
The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard McLachlan, of Darley Abbey, Derby, and Josephine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Joseph Oxley, of Helsby, Cheshire.

Mr T.R. Tacon and Miss S.L. Church
The engagement is announced between Tomfine, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Tacon, of Rollesby, Norfolk, and Suzannah, younger daughter of Mr Anthony Church, of Long Melford, Suffolk, and Mrs Jennifer Church, of Topcliffe, North Yorkshire.

Lord Grade

A ceremony of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Grade will be held at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, London W1, on Sunday, April 18, at 7.00pm. Application for tickets should be addressed to: Marcia Stanton, c/o DDA, Royalty House, 72-74 Dean Street, London W1V 5HB.

Breakfast

Asian Business Breakfast Club
Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, the politician and author, was the guest of honour at the Asian Business Breakfast Club's meeting held at the House of Commons on Thursday, February 11. Mr Sarosh Zaiwalla, co-convenor of the Club, welcomed the guests, and presided at the meeting. Rabbi Plancey said the prayers. The Ambassador of Qatar, the Representative of the Palestinian Authority, Mr Keith Vaz, MP, and Sir Anwar Parvez were among the speakers. Mr Tim Boswell, MP, proposed the vote of thanks.

Reception

James Caird Society
The Hon Alexandra Shackleton, President of the James Caird Society, received the guests at a reception held last night at Dulwich College, London, to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Mr Harding Dunnett, founder and chairman of the society, also spoke.

PAUL ROGERS



Weather presenters gathered yesterday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of ITV's national weather service, which since 1989 has been supplied by a commercial arm of the Meteorological Office. Clockwise from left, Trish Williamson, Laura Greene, Sian Lloyd and Fiona Farrell brighten up an overcast, windy, but dry day.

Luncheon

48 Group Club
The Chinese Ambassador, the Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Michael Heseltine, CH, MP, were the principal speakers at a luncheon of the 48 Group Club held yesterday at Grosvenor House to mark the Chinese New Year (Year of the Rabbit). During the luncheon Mr Trevor McDonald was presented with the Rabbit of the Year award by Miss Angela Rippon.

Service dinner

71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment
Mr Nicholas Playne, Master of the Drapers' Company, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the 71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment Officers Dining Club held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton presided. Among others present were:

Col the Earl of Limerick, Major Lord Glanusk, Colonel Sir David Black, Lieutenant-Colonel C.H. Turner, Regimental Commanding Officer, Major-General T.A Richardson, Brigadiers C A Brown, P A Dally, J E Neeve and A P Verey, Colonels P A Arda, S P Foakes, G D Thompson, R M Yolland and Commander A Lang, Clerk of the Drapers' Company.

Dinners

Air League 90th Anniversary
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of The Air League, was a speaker at a dinner held last night at The Mansion House to mark the 90th anniversary of the league. The Lord Mayor, Sir Michael Knight, president, and Dr Lord Gilbert, who read a message from the Prime Minister, also spoke. Mr Michael Marshall, chairman, presided. Senior members of the Aerospace Industry and HM Forces and their ladies were present.

The British Museum
The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of the British Museum Society Great Court Appeal, was present at a dinner at the museum to mark the raising of one million pounds by the society for the museum. Mr Graham Greene, chairman of the trustees, and Dr Robert Anderson, director of the museum, were the hosts. Among others present were:

Lord Egremont, Lady Vaizey, Sir Richard Thompson, Lady Trethowan, Sir Simon Towneley, Sir Matthew Farrer, Mr Nicholas Barber, Mr James Bishop, Professor John Mack, Dr Jessica Rawson, FBA, and other members of the museum staff and British Museum Society staff and members of council

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Mr C.N.D. Cole, and the Lord-Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was Mr Tim Jones, Managing Director, Retail Banking Services, National Westminster Bank plc. Mr Peter Griffiths, Regional Director - Wales, National Westminster Bank plc, presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Giambattista Bodoni, type designer, Saluzzo, Italy, 1740; George Macaulay Trevelyan, historian, Welcombe, Warwickshire, 1876; Robert Flaherty, film director, Michigan, 1884.

DEATHS: Richard Mead, physician, London, 1754; Lionel Lukin, lifeboat pioneer, Hythe, Kent, 1834; Leslie Hore-Belisha, 1st Baron Hore-Belisha, statesman and inventor of "Belisha beacons", Rheims, 1957.

The Institute of Legal Executives

The following Members have been upgraded to Fellows and are entitled to use the letters F.Inst.L.Ex after their names:

Ahmed K Mr; Al Mufachi BA Mrs; Allen CA Mrs; Allen SK Mrs; Allford CS Mrs; Alp DW Mr; Anderson KJ Miss; Andrews JS Ms; Antoniou P Mr; Aston JA Miss.

Backhouse GD Mr; Balla GG Mr; Ball D Mr; Bannigan RM Miss; Banton D Mrs; Barber MA Mr; Barham JC Mrs; Barron AD Mr; Barron JD Mrs; Basham PJ Miss; Beadle LJ Mrs; Beale E Mrs; Bedford JI Mr; Beglarbegi LC Mrs; Bence SI Miss; Bennett JC Miss; Bennett L Mr; Benson LR Mr; Benson TA Miss; Berry JS Miss; Betts KJ Mr; Beynon CJ Mrs; Bibi Z MS; Bickerton JA Mrs; Biley TM Mrs; Billowes PT Mr; Bindra HS Mr; Bird GM Mr; Birkett LC Mrs; Blackburn DT Mr; Blackford RJ Mrs; Blair LM Mrs; Bloye GC Mr; Boardman A Miss; Booth RM Ms; Bodle IE Ms; Bonnett HS Mr; Borley AL Miss; Bourne KA Ms; Bowes-Smith OW Mr; Bowler LJ Miss; Bowsjalt LC Mrs; Boyle MM Miss; Boynton H Miss; Bradley H Mrs; Bradley SH Miss; Bramall RC Mr; Brewin LJ Mrs; Bridgen MJ Mrs; Britnell RJ Mr; Broad ML Mrs; Bromley SY Ms; Bromwich PC Miss; Brough LA Mrs; Brown AMC Mrs; Brown LA Mrs; Brown MW Mr; Brownlow HC Mrs; Burke MW Mr; Burt DR Mr; Bustin CA Mrs; Butcher AD Mrs; Butler LJ Mrs; Butlin TJ Miss; Byford S Mrs.

Cailleach TAE Ms; Calcott JA Mrs; Calder GL Mrs; Callcott CA Mrs; Cameron AD Mr; Camp MA Mrs; Campbell FM Miss; Campbell PA Miss; Candlish J Miss; Carroll AJ Mrs; Carruthers KA Miss; Carter SR Miss; Chadwick AC Mr; Chance HP Mr; Cheung SL Miss; Chiang SS Mr; Childs S Miss; Chisholm D Miss; Chudleigh JAM Mrs; Church CS Mrs; Clark IW Mr; Clarke DR Mr; Clarke F Mrs; Clarke GM Mrs; Clarke PD Mrs; Clarke SCS Mrs; Clifford EP Mr; Cogan DS Mr; Cohen MD Mrs; Cole LP Mrs; Coley PD Mr; Colleran M Miss; Collins A Mrs; Collinson DJ Mr; Collinson G Mrs; Concannon NP Mr; Connor H Mrs; Copeland AF Mr; Corry A Mrs; Cosserat SM Mrs; Coward Reid S Mrs; Cowell JA Mrs; Crawley OA Mrs; Creed TL Miss; Crook KJ Mr; Crowder EC Miss.

Dale SP Miss; Daly CL Mrs; Danaher JP Mr; Danby KM Mrs; Darsell D Mrs; Davenport PJ Mr; Davidson AM Mrs; Davies JSDH Mr; Davies KM Mrs; Davies N Mrs; Davies PG Mrs; Davies SJ Mrs; Davis PJ Mr; Day DM Mrs; Day T Mrs; De Kretser BJ Mrs; Deamer RE Mr; Deaville BA Hons PL Miss; Desai ND Miss; Desilva JH Mrs; Dewell LC Miss; Dobney D Mrs; Douglas CR Mrs; Douglas MR Mr; Duncan BA LLM LJ Ms; Dunkley KM Mr; Dunlop JM Mrs; Dunn A Mrs; Dunn M Miss; Dunne VA Mrs; Dunster JL Mrs; Durbridge SE Miss; Dyas KJ Miss; Dyson SE Mrs.

Easey E Mrs; Ebuhar ER Mr; Economides M Mr; Edwards CA Mrs; Edwards EJ Miss; Edwards L Mrs; Edwards SM Mrs; Edwards TS Mrs; Edwards VS Ms; Edwards WE Mrs; Edwards LLB VA Mrs; Ellerington JS Miss; Ellinger C Mrs; Elliot IJ Mr; Ellis KC Miss; Ellis PA Mr; Ellmore C Mrs; Etherington RP Mr; Evans D Mrs; Evans-Miller L Mrs.

Fairs E Ms; Farnham SR Mr; Fazakerley C Mrs; Fenny VE Mrs; Ferries JA Mrs; Field EC Ms; Fisher HJ Miss; Fitzgerald KEL Miss; Fletcher AL Miss; Flower CP Mrs; Fordham EA Mrs; Foster DC Mr; Fowler D Mr; Fowler PA Mr; Fox J Mrs; Francis JL Mrs; Fudge PA Mrs; Foster PA Mrs.

Gay SA Miss; Gee AM Miss; Gee SL Miss; Gibbs TE Mrs; Gilbert ML Miss; Gleave T Mr; Gowland SD Mr; Graham C Mrs; Graham LC Mrs; Graveson G Mrs; Greathead CS Mrs; Green CC Miss; Green JP Mr; Greenhalgh MJ Mr; Greenwood HA Mrs; Greenwood SR Mr; Gregg JL Miss; Gregory J Miss; Griffiths DJ Mr; Griffiths S Miss; Grogan CM Mr.

Haggett SC Mr; Haigh LLB JG Miss; Haines S Mrs; Haldenby JA Miss; Hamilton L Miss; Hamilton MG Ms; Hamilton-Fey IR Mr; Hammond AM Miss; Hamdi DS Mrs; Hancock J Mrs; Hancock SH Mrs; Harries KE Mrs; Harries SM Miss; Harris GR Miss; Harrison KG Mr; Harrison P Miss; Harrison SF Miss; Harrison LLB J Miss; Hons Haslam SL Mrs; Haydock VL Miss; Hayes F Mrs; Hennessey E Mr; Henshall HM Mrs; Herd SM Miss; Herod SC Miss; Hickey LLB ACIB KLS Mrs; Hicks AT Mr; Higgs RJ Mr; Hill GA Mr; Hilliard SJE Ms; Hills TA Mrs; Hindley NA Mrs; Ho Yp Mr; Hobson SB Mrs; Holiday SJ Mrs; Holland AD Miss; Holmes RM Miss; Holmes CJ Mrs; Homfray EH Mrs; Hope GJ Miss; Hoskin CJ Mr; Houghton MI Miss; Howton EI Mrs; Hudson K Mr; Humphreys JM Mrs; Humphries P Mrs; Huntable P Mr.

Iddiols LA Miss; Inman JR Mrs.

Jaggard-Inglis CM Mrs; James DP Mr; Jeffs NB Mr; Jennings EV Miss; Jeremiah D Miss; Jinks AR Mr; Joel TM Mr; Johnson AM Mrs; Johnson MF Mr; Jones AK Ms; Jones C Mrs; Jones CM Miss; Jones HR Mr; Jones N Miss; Jones RM Mr; Jones SC Mr; Jora UR Miss.

Karikari SK Mr; Keel SL Mrs; Kelly PF Mrs; Kemp SK Mrs; Kerridge AL Ms; Khadem AJ Miss; Killeen CM Miss; King LA Miss; Kitchingham MRJ Mr; Klewaye A Mr; Knell JP Mrs; Knowlden CE Mrs.

Lacy SL Miss; Lambert J Mrs; Lane SC Miss; Laverack SJ Mrs; Law TD Mr; Lawton JL Miss; Lee ML Mrs; Lee SK Ms; Levers RR Mrs; Lewis JF Mrs; Lewis PG Mrs; Lewis RW Mr; Lewis YKM Miss; Liddle C Mr; Lindsay-Sturrock HP Mrs; Linton DJ Mr; Lissner PPS Mr; Lloyd AJ Miss; Lock RA Mr; Loram MK Miss; Lowe CJ Mr; Lunt NA Miss.

Macfien N Mrs; Maerevoet JS Mrs; Mandair H Mrs; Mann A Miss; Manning PR Mr; Mannouch VA Miss; Mapp R Mr; Markland-Zuiderwijk GH Mrs; Marley JR Mr; Marsh JP Miss; Martin A Mrs; Martin CA Miss; Martin K Mrs; Mason T Mrs; Massey PJ Mr; Mathias ER Miss; Maxfield AJ Mr; Maybry A Miss; Mccabe PM Miss; Mccarthy AM Mrs; Mcgladdery PW Mr; Mcknight J Mrs; Mclaughlin D Mr; Meadows SJ Mrs; Melvin JA Miss; Mercer CF Ms; Mercer PJ Miss; Michael MD Mr; Miller AR Miss; Miller DJ Mr; Miller EP Mrs; Milner JC Mr; Missick KH Miss; Mitchell AJ Miss; Mond JC Mrs; Moon P Mrs; Moores JP Mrs; Moppett AJ Mrs; Moran DGM Mr; Morgan JA Mrs; Morris RG Mr; Morris-Jones LM Miss; Morton J Mrs; Munkacsi S Miss; Mycock DJ Mr.

Neale T Miss; Nedd GM Miss; Nell LLB CD Mr; Neill R Miss; New-Richards M Miss; Newstead RJ Mr; Norman AR Mrs; North L Mrs; Northam AR Miss; Nottage NJ Mr.

O'Hara EJ Mrs; Oddy KR Mr; Oppong MA Ms; Orpin C Miss; Osborne JJ Mrs; Osborne MW Mrs.

Page MD Mr; Pallett DA Mr; Parker JM Miss; Parker SL Mr; Parkes P Mr; Patterson GE Mrs; Paul P Mrs; Payne AJ Mr; Pearce SA Miss; Pearson SJ Mrs; Pereira JM Mr; Perring GL Mr; Perry DP Mr; Perry JAC Mrs; Phillips B Mrs; Phillips JD Mr; Pilling AF Mrs; Pilsworth C Miss; Pitman EL Mrs; Plant E Mrs; Plaskin N Mr; Potter SL Miss.

Rajput JS Mr; Rawson ME Miss; Rawson LLB Dip JE Mr; Crim; Rayson SM Mrs; Read-Brown JD Mrs; Ready SL Mrs; Redfern CA Mr; Redford CM Miss; Regler JL Mrs; Reid JO Miss; Revill HT Mrs; Reynolds AC Miss; Rhodes IJ Mr; Richardson M Mrs; Rix SW Mr; Roberts A Miss; Roberts HVM Mrs; Roberts JT Mrs; Roberts LC Mrs; Robinson D Mr; Robinson YE Mrs; Rockett RA Miss; Rogers SL Mrs; Rook E Mrs; Rose CE Miss; Rousou E Mrs; Routledge DI Mrs; Rumm D Mr; Raczucki SH Mrs.

Sadhra BSc Cpe JGK Mrs; Salvatore E Mrs; Sandel TJ Miss; Sawkins FB Miss; Sayer J Mrs; Scothern PM Dr; Scott ML Mrs; Seddon F Miss; Seigne SB Ms; Sharkey T Mr; Sharp DF Mr; Sharpe JK Mrs; Shaughnessy KE Miss; Shaw JP MA LLB BC Miss; Bed; Shea YF Mr; Shepherd CM Mrs; Sheppard MJ Mr; Simkins LLB Hons DM Mrs; Simpson J Mrs; Sims S Mrs; Singer SC Mrs; Slater-Harries ML Mrs; Small A Mrs; Smart JA Mr; Smith AJ Mrs; Smith CVM Mrs; Smith EA Mrs; Smith ML Miss; Smith SDE Mrs; Smith SL Mrs; Smyth B Mrs; Soares AA Miss; Southan GC Mrs; Speller PA Mr; Spicer AH Mrs; Stafford SW Mr; Stanley PI Miss; Stanton TL Mrs; Steele-Williams ML Mrs; Steer SL Mrs; Stephenson Ca Mrs; Stone LA Mrs; Stone RM Miss; Storey JL Miss; Sugarman CSA Mrs; Sukul SJ Mrs; Sutton K Mrs; Sweeney KA Mrs; Sweeting BM Miss; Symonette RM Mrs.

Tapner LD Miss; Tassart PG Mr; Taylor JK Miss; Taylor V Mrs; Taylor WL Mrs; Teo AR Mrs; Theriff MC Mrs; Thomas MJ Mr; Thomas MM Mrs; Thomason Ba Hons SH Mr; Thompson JD Mrs; Thompson RP Mr; Toft M Miss; Tomalin RM Miss; Tomkinson KE Mrs; Tomlin N Miss; Toor S Mrs; Traynor A Mr; Troup JM Mrs; Turner CH Mrs.

Uddin S Mr; Urmson JS Miss.

Van Den Berg CA Mrs; Vizard I Mr.

Wade YEM Mrs; Wagstaffe JL Mrs; Walker VL Mrs; Wall CL Miss; Walsh JA Mr; Wardle AC Mr; Warford PC Mr; Warmisham C Miss; Washington SE Mrs; Watson JJ Mr; Watson-Bate D Mrs; Watts MD Mrs; Webb H Mrs; Webb M Mr; Webster EL Mrs; Webster K Mr; Welford S Mr; Weller PA Mr; Wheatland MJ Miss; Whidden DS Mr; White HG Mrs; Whitehead VB Mr; Whittaker DM Miss; Whyman LE Miss; Wilding MJ Mr; Wilkes VH Mr; Wilkins S Mr; Wilkinson SJ Miss; Willey JW Mrs; Williams JL Miss; Williams KE Mrs; Williams RJ Miss; Williamson MD Mr; Willows TA Mrs; Wilmot CA Mrs; Wilson MW Miss; Windus SJ Miss; Woodward MA Mrs; Woodward ML Mrs; Woolley EJ Mr; Worton EJ Miss; Wright CJ Miss; Wright GM Mrs; Wright NM Miss.

Yates RA Miss; Yearsley LI Mrs; York EA Miss; Young G Mr; Young KA Mrs.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the together. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6.24 (NIV).

BIRTHS

BINGHAM - On February 11th at Missoula Montana USA, to Caroline (née Stone) and Donald, a son, Finley Peter

BURGIN - To Lorna and Nick, their beautiful daughter, Hannah Louise, on January 9th, 1999.

CROWTHER - On February 2nd 1999 to Elaine (née King) and Philip, a son, Thomas Joshua Jordan.

FORESE - On February 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Jennifer and James, a 4th son, Mark Daniel, to join brothers Jack, Tommy and Bobby.

FRY - On 11th February, to Larissa (née Townsend) and Nicholas, a beloved son, Samuel George. Welcomed grandchild for Paul and Sylvia Townsend and Peter and Sylvia Fry

GOLD - On February 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Suzi and Alan, a beautiful daughter, Hollie, a sister for Matthew.

GOLDSMITH - On February 7th 1999 at Pembury Hospital, Kent, to Justine (née Moore) and Philip, a splendid son, Luke Philip Richard

GREENE - On 10th January, to Kay and Steve, a son, Benjamin Charles Samuel.

HARBER - On 12th January 1999, to David and Sophie (née Kuipers), a daughter, Maya Florence.

JACOBS - On February 14th 1999 to Samantha (née Moffat) and Michael, a daughter, India Amber

KEELING - On 10th February, to Siobhan (née Collins) and Tom, a daughter, Imogen Rose, a sister for Arthur and Edward.

KING - On February 10th 1999 to Donna (née Birrell) and Adrian, a splendid son, Adam Dudley Macrae Hunter

LISTER - On February 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Virginia (née Holmes) and Robert, a son, Tom.

MILLS - On Tuesday 9th February 1999, to Helen (née Foley) and Richard, a second beautiful son, Frederick David George, brother to William.

ODUSOTE SJAMARKEN - On February 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Lalde (née Odusote) and Lars, a son, Kristian, a brother for Stefan.

OVERTON - On February 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Anna and Stephen, a daughter, Alexandra. A sister for Philip.

PEDLEY - On 14th February to Caroline (née Hart) and Neil, a son, William James Stewart, a brother for Tom, Camilla and Lara.

RENNEY - On February 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Penny (née Brandler) and Paul, a daughter, Lucinda Faith Pamela, a sister for Isabelle, Olivia, and Catharine

RENOUF - On 9th February, to Karen (née Broadley) and George, a daughter, Emma, a sister for Max and James.

ROBERTS - On February 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Juliette (née Beaupierre) and Kola, a daughter, Sophia Yeti.

RUSSELL-SMITH - On February 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Lilla (née Bikfalvy) and William, a beautiful daughter, Alma Flora.

SHARMA - On February 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Surbhi (Bhardwaj) and Ben, a daughter, Rishika, a sister for Ankita.

TALFOURD-COOK - On 29th January to Penelope (née Bricknell) and James, a son, Rupert William James, a brother for Amelia.

WIENER - On 13th February, to Marianna (née Lewis) and Daniel, a daughter, Agatha, a sister for Dylan and Alfred.

WOMACK - On February 10th at St Thomas' Hospital, to Lucy (née Hilton) and Stephen, a beautiful daughter, Jessica Kate Hilton.

WOODS - On St Valentine's Day at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to Megan (née Dickinson) and Adam, a son

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DEATHS

BAIRD-MURRAY - Neil Christopher, Captain CBE Royal Navy (retd.), aged 61, suddenly at home in Kynaston, Shropshire, on 12th February 1999. Dearly beloved husband of Maureen, devoted father of Elizabeth, Fiona, Kathleen, Jasper and Rupert and grandfather of Rebecca, Lydie and Thomas. Funeral service, Friday 19th February, at 2.00pm, St. Mary's Church, Kinnerley. Memorial service, London, in May. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to woodland planted in his memory, c/o W. Lewis & Son, 01691 682281.

BASHALL - Joanna (née Littleton), much loved wife of Brian and sister of Eve, died peacefully February 13th. Funeral 2.00pm, 19th February at Chichester Crematorium. No flowers please, but donations to the Macmillan Unit, King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, West Sussex would be appreciated.

BIGGART - Peacefully at Erskine Hospital on 13th February 1999, William Gibson, husband of Jane (née Fairlie) and father of Jane (Neal), William and the late Robin and the late Elizabeth and grandfather of his 10 grandchildren. Much loved by all. Funeral service on Friday 19th February, 1999 at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnotter, at 10.30am No flowers please. Donations if wished to the Erskine Hospital 2000 Appeal tel 0141 812 1100.

BOASE - Dorothy Malcolm of Wimbledon, peacefully on 13th February at Galsworthy N.H. aged 102 years. Funeral at Putney Vale on February 19th at 2.00pm. Please no flowers.

CARR - Roy Lancelot, Member of the Stock Exchange. On February 12th 1999 peacefully at his home in Preston, Canterbury, Kent. Beloved husband of Mollie and father of Simon, Jane and Andrew. Funeral Thursday February 18th 1999, service at Barham Crematorium at 4.30pm. No flowers by request, donations, if desired to Pilgrims Hospice, c/o J. Dilnot Smith & Son, Beacon Lane, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0PD.

COLLINS - Derek was released from a sudden illness in the early hours of Friday morning 5th February 1999 aged 74 years. He was one of this countries best musicians for over 40 years. He was at the top of his profession both as a jazz musician and also in the disciplined world of the studio. He always played with his heart and soul. Much loved by his children Cherry and Mel and grandchildren, Bianca, Melissa, Daryl, Wesley and Naima. Cremation to be held at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead on Tuesday 23rd February at 2.00pm. Flowers preferred but, if desired, donations to Cancer Research Campaign or the RSPCA. Any enquiries to W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd. Tel 0181 643 8211.

CUDDIGAN - Vera Winifred. On 11th February 1999. Beloved wife of the late Dr. John Cuddigan, much loved mother of Ann, Brian and Jeremy and devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass at the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, Harvest Road, Englefield Green, on Monday 22nd February at 12.30 pm, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to F. Harrison (01784) 432163.

EDWARDES - Mary Margaret, beloved mother of Susan, Judy and Penni and most adored grandmother of Sabrina, Tyrone and Ella, died suddenly but peacefully in her sleep on Saturday 13th February 1999. Memorial Service to be announced.

FORRESTER - Gwyneth, on 11th February 1999, aged 93. Beloved wife of the late Donald, darling mother of Wendy, dear sister and aunt. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on February 22nd at 3.00pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to St Kentigern's Hospice c/o A Bennetts and Sons, 61 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5BU.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

FROST - On 13th February 1999 at home with his family, David Richard (Dick) M.C., dearly loved husband of Leta and devoted father of James and Sarah and grandfather of Edward, Katie and Oliver. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Hayes, Kent on Monday, 22nd February 1999 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only but donations, if wished, to the Marie Curie Foundation c/o Francis Chappell, 332 Crofton Road, Farnborough, Kent BR6 8NW.

GILL - William David Littlejohn Gill, aged 82 years, peacefully at Inchmarlo House, Banchory on Wednesday February 10th 1999. Younger son of the late W S Gill of Dalhebity. Funeral Service at St Ternan's Episcopal Church, Banchory on Friday February 26th at 2.00pm, thereafter to Peterculter Churchyard. All friends respectfully invited. Enquiries to Brian Smith Funeral Service, 317 North Deeside Road, Peterculter. 01224 732530.

GLUCKMAN - Michael died suddenly in hospital on 14th February. Dearly loved husband of Caroline and father of Kate and Robert. Funeral on Sunday 21st February at 12 noon at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11.

HAMBER - Jill Auriol Mary. Peacefully after a short illness on February 11th 1999, aged 69 years, at Trinity Hospice, Clapham. Beloved wife of Geoffrey and mother of Michael and a much loved grandmother to Isobel, Phoebe and Jasper. Private funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on Thursday February 18th at 3.30 pm. Flowers to W.S. Bond, 13 Bond Street, London W5 (0181 567 6422). Donations, if desired, to Trinity Hospice, Clapham. A Memorial Service to celebrate Jill's life will be held in London on a date to be announced

HOOTON - On February 10th 1999 suddenly in her garden, Dilys Mary of Rockbank, Ardrishaig, Argyll and formerly of Osmington School, Tring, Hertfordshire, in her 87th year. Beloved wife of the late Wilfred Hooton, mother of Mary, John and Tim and grandmother of seven.

KENDALL - Peter, widow of Welbury, on 11th February. Funeral Thursday. 01325 325812.

KENDRICK-JONES - Thomas Gordon on 14th February 1999 at home in Lyme Regis aged 73 years. Husband of Mary, father of David, Mark and Rebecca. He will be sadly missed. A private cremation will take place. Donations for Cancer Research c/o A.J. Wakely & Sons, 7a Silver Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

MacDONALD - Marjorie Cecile Mary. Suddenly but peacefully at Kelowna General Hospital British Columbia on January 27th 1999. Beloved sister of Janet Stewart of Coll. Devoted aunt and great-aunt. Funeral took place in Kelowna on January 30th. Donations if desired to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

MAITLAND-WARD - On February 13th 1999, peacefully at home after a long illness, Elizabeth. Beloved wife and best friend of John, and much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Totley, Sheffield, on Friday February 19th at 1.15pm. If desired, donations in lieu of flowers, to The Alzheimers Disease Society may be sent c/o G & M Lunt, Funeral Directors, 36 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0GB. Tel 0114 274 5508.

NEW - John Eric "Jack", peacefully in his sleep at home on Wednesday 10th February aged 71 years, much loved and missed by his son Keith and daughter Jacqueline, three grandchildren and very many friends. Funeral on Friday 19th February at 12.20pm, Beckenham Crematorium, Elmers End Road. Donations as Jack would have wanted to Star and Garter Home Richmond.

PARKERSON - Clive David died peacefully on 12th February at home surrounded by his family. Adored husband and best friend of Sue. Supporting, loving and humorous dad to Jo, David and Hannah. Funeral at St Leonards Church, Watlington, on Wednesday 24th February at 2.30 pm and afterwards in the Town Hall. No flowers but donations to League of Friends and sent to Watlington Hospital, Oxford OX9 5AE, these will be used to buy essential equipment for patient care at home.

PARKER - Elizabeth Alice, (formerly Lamont, née Carden) died peacefully on 12th February, after an illness courageously borne. Beloved wife of Clive, mother of Lilias and Jane and grandmother of Charles and Eliza. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Itchenor on Thursday 18th February at 3.45pm. Flowers to Edward White's, South Pallant, Chichester or donations if desired to The Motor Neurone Disease Association, PO Box 246, Northampton NN1 2PR.

PARSONS - A.B.D. (Brian) died February 11th aged 65. Former Cambridge University and Surrey Cricketer. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Memorial Service at St Cyriac's Church, Lacock, near Chippenham, Wiltshire at 2pm Friday February 19th. No flowers but donations to Frenchay Hospital, Jack and Jill (Children's Appeal), Frenchay Park, Bristol BS16 1LE.

ROBIN - Sydney Frank, died suddenly on Saturday, 13th February 1999, aged 82. Beloved husband of Connie and devoted father of David and Jonathan. Funeral Service at Christchurch, Christchurch Road, Virginia Water, Surrey on Thursday, 18th February at 2 pm. A memorial service will be held shortly in Central London. Enquiries: Tracey Boorman, Paisner & Co. (0171) 427 1177.

SANSOM - On February 12th 1999 peacefully at his home in Oadby, Leicester, Leonard aged 67 years (Sansom's Cash & Carry). Dearly beloved husband of Barbara, loving father of Steven, Philip, Adrian and Susan and a much loved Grandpa. "God be with you till we meet again" Loving wife Barbara. Funeral Service at Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby, on Friday February 19th at 12 noon followed by interment at Oadby Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations payable to Imperial Cancer Research c/o A.J. Adkinson & Son, Independent Funeral Directors, 12 London Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5DG. Tel: (0116) 2712340.

SQUIRES - George, beloved husband of Sophie, passed away suddenly on 10th February 1999 in his 84th year. He was the dearly loved dad of Gloria, grandad of Cathryn, Joanna and Kieran and great-grandad of Oliver George. Funeral Service at Enfield Crematorium on Tuesday 23rd February 1999 at 2.20 pm. Donations if desired to the N.S.P.C.C. Further enquiries to Enfield Funeral Parlour, 317 Baker Street, Enfield EN1 3LE. He was a gentle man and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

STOCK - Peter Stock MC TD on February 15th at his home. A courageous man.

SUTER - Barbara, peacefully at home on Sunday February 14th 1999. Funeral on Friday February 26th at 2 pm in St Andrews Church, Impington. No flowers, donations to Christian Aid.

WALKER - William Alexander Riddell (Bill), dearly loved husband of Jean and brother of Helen and Jim. Died peacefully aged 92 in Washington D.C., USA, Friday 12th February 1999. Late H.M. Colonial Administrative Service Ghana and Jamaica Embassy Washington. Donations if desired to a cancer fund of choice.

WHITE - Valérie De La Cour (née Ray). In hospital on Saturday, February 13th. Beloved wife of the late Bentham. Dearly loved mother of Michael, Jeremy, Nichola and Elizabeth. Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Aunt and Great-Aunt. Service of Thanksgiving tomorrow Wednesday at 11.30 am in St John Baptist Church, Helens Bay, Co. Down. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if desired, to the British Heart Foundation or the Helens Bay and Craigavad Branch, Royal British Legion c/o John Gray & Co., 80 Central Avenue, Bangor, BT20 3AU.

WILKINSON - Dr John Douglas, aged 77 years, died peacefully at home on February 11th, 1999. Dearly loved husband of Mary, loving father of Anne, Helena, Hugh and Christopher and devoted grandfather to Jonathan, Nicholas, Henrietta, Tati, Florence, Archie, Joss, Lotti, Flora, Alicia and Jonty. Private cremation service, family flowers only. Thanksgiving Service to be held at Tewkesbury Abbey on Thursday 25th March 1999. Any donations to Tewkesbury Hospital.

WOODCOCK - Thomas of Hurst Green and Haslingden, Lancashire, suddenly on 13th February 1999 aged 80 years. Beloved husband of Mary and loving father of Thomas and Catherine and grandfather of Francis. Funeral at the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green, Friday 19th February 1999 at 2 pm. Flowers to and arrangements by Messrs. H. Whalley & Sons, 94 Ripon Street, Preston, tel: (01772) 254936.

WRIGHT - Audrey, peacefully in hospital on February 15th 1999, aged 85, dear mother of Angela and beloved wife of the late Lt. Cdr. J.K. (Jack) Wright R.N. Ret'd. Loving stepmother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Privately at Pentland Chapel, Mortonhall Crematorium, followed by Memorial Service at St Adrian's Episcopal Church, Gullane on Friday 19th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

WRIGHT - Sidney Thomas, CBE; CEng; FIEE; died unexpectedly on February 11th aged 80. Former Deputy Director of ASWE Portsdown. Cremation on Tuesday February 23rd at 12 noon at Portchester Crematorium. No flowers please but any donations for NSPCC c/o Grady's Funeral Directors, 23 Mengham Road, Hayling Island PO11 9BG.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LLEWELLYN-DAVIES - A Memorial Service for the life and work of Cathleen Llewellyn-Davies will be held at The Mothers' Union, Tufton Street, London SW1 on Tuesday 9th March at 2 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

FINDON - Charlotte Helena Louise 19.7.72 - 16.2.90. In loving memory of my beloved daughter Charlotte, time changes nothing in my heart you live forever. God's justice on those near and far away who caused your death. Until we meet again my Charlotte Roo rest in peace, your loving Mother Lynda. Time tells all truths.

NEILAND - Bryan 20/5/43 - 16/2/97. Loved always Eve, Adam and Laura. Lux aeterna luceat eis.

OBITUARIES

KENNETH DE COURCY

Kenneth de Courcy, financier, died on February 8 aged 89. He was born on November 6, 1909.

A Baron Munchausen fantasist and adventurer, Kenneth de Courcy, who styled himself Duc de Grantmesnil and Chancellor of the Order of the Three Orders, had been a friend to peers and adviser to ambassadors until his arrest and conviction for fraud, perjury and forgery in 1963. His escape the following year from a Lincoln's Inn solicitor's office, where he had been taken for his appeal while serving a seven-year jail sentence, was the most sensational happening in a life full of unlikely incidents.

Kenneth Hugh de Courcy lost his father when he was two years old, allegedly as a result of his head being blown off in a magic lantern show. Educated at King's College School, Wimbledon, and by "travelling abroad", de Courcy made a considerable private fortune from property deals in his twenties. In 1930 he was commissioned into the Supplementary Reserve of the Coldstream Guards, leaving two years later.

In 1934 he became honorary secretary to the Imperial Policy Group, soon becoming its chief observer of foreign affairs. This shady, extremely right-wing pressure group had the Earl of Mansfield, Lord Clive, Lord Phillimore and Victor Raikes, MP, on its notepaper and in the appeasement period it afforded de Courcy introductions to a number of prominent European politicians of the day.

In 1936 he met Mussolini, Edward Benes of Czechoslovakia and President Schuschnigg of Austria. In 1938 he led a delegation to King Boris of Bulgaria. In 1983 de Courcy published papers relating to these discussions in a book entitled *Secret Reports of Prime Minister Chamberlain*, which showed how anodyne they were. By then, however, he had built a career analysing international politics and purveying gloriously improbable conspiracy theories.

He opposed the war, his mother being German and his opinions pro-fascist. He avoided service by forging his medical certificate. Little is known of his activities during the war, although by the end of it he had some lucrative consultancy contracts with various American steel concerns.

It was the Cold War, and the need for secret information as to Soviet intentions, that made him a reputation. His *Intelligence Digest*, of which he was editor from 1938 to 1969, retailed a regular diet of genuine news stories and "Reds under the Bed" espionage scares. His information came partly from his contacts with the Eastern and Central European Right, and partly from his fertile imagination. De Courcy wrote the entire publication himself. It grew in circulation to some 200,000 subscribers, with a particularly strong following in the American mid-West.

One of the most celebrated, if least convincing, conspiracy theories the *Digest* advanced concerned the sinister "Force X", a secret international organisation whose aim was, of course, to take over the world. Although discounted by those in the know, the *Digest* nevertheless became required reading in embassies and chancelleries around the world, and de Courcy managed to anticipate an event or hit upon a connection regularly enough to maintain his subscribers' faith and confound his detractors.

Sometimes he got his facts spectacularly wrong, as when in 1949 he accused the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hugh Dalton, of corruption and had to pay substantial damages. Overall, however, the *Digest* and, after 1958, its sister publication *The Weekly Review* prospered. This was largely due to the way its uncompromisingly anti-communist stance appealed to subscribers.

Despite being an accomplished name-dropper and crashing snob, de Courcy was a stimulating conversationalist and generous friend. He lived in the grand style, his finances bolstered somewhat by disinclination to pay tax. He wanted to live the life of an 18th-century nobleman, and to a great extent he succeeded. He was a generous and amusing host and his country home, Cerney House in Gloucestershire, was thronged with politicians, ambassadors, aristocrats and foreign royalty. They eagerly accepted, indeed sought out, his hospitality, knowing that de Courcy was always engaging company, and that laughter was never far away from him.

His imagination, his kindness and willingness to take infinite pains for his children made him a stimulating father. He would indulge them, encouraging them to believe in magic and the supernatural. In return he expected them to pray for Conservative victories at elections, informing them in 1959 that if they did not petition God for Macmillan to win they would all have to live in a hut on a Swiss hillside.


Kenneth de Courcy, left, leaves Wormwood Scrubs in January 1969, accompanied by his butler Parkin

In August 1963, de Courcy was arrested for his part in a £1million Rhodesian land development deal which had been launched on a false prospectus. Though several others were also involved in the affair, it was de Courcy who went to prison after he was caught falsifying documents. In the course of the trial de Courcy sacked his counsel and attempted to defend himself. On December 13, 1963, he was convicted of fraud, forgery and perjury and was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

In June 1964, during his appeal, he gave his warders the slip outside his solicitors' offices. "I moved pretty damn quickly", he remembered. Catching a taxi in Chancery Lane, he went to Victoria where he bought dark glasses and took a bus to the East End, hoping to mix with the crowds. "You get an extraordinary feeling that everyone is looking at you," he said later.

From there he went to Fareham in Hampshire, where he hoped to gain the help of a family friend whose wartime work with the French Resistance he wrongly believed gave her contacts with the anti-de Gaulle terrorist organisation, the OAS. He intended to cross the Channel and throw himself upon their protection before giving a press conference to clear his name. He booked into the Red Lion Hotel in Fareham under the assumed name of Foster and went to bed. At midnight the police arrived, having been tipped off by the friend, and he was rearrested.

While at Wormwood Scrubs, de Courcy shared a cell with George Blake, who had been given a life sentence for spying for the Soviet Union. Despite their very different political viewpoints, and de Courcy's belief that the KGB had framed him over the Rhodesian deal, the two men became confidants; when de Courcy discovered Blake's escape plans he did not tell the authorities.

On leaving prison in 1969, de Courcy was picked up by Parkin, the family's faithful butler. He had the capacity to inspire great devotion in his staff, of whom he employed a large number before his fall. Ever confident of his abilities, he started a brand new news-sheet, having lost control of the *Digest*, and began life afresh. His ruling passion for foreign affairs was undimmed, and as recently as 1993 he had offered to give evidence to the arms-to-Iraq inquiry, though this was not required. He also pursued the second crusade of attempting to clear his name.

In his desire to reinvent himself, and when many a lesser man might have despaired, de Courcy began to erect an exotic aristocratic façade around himself. He claimed descent from Charlemagne and clung to his right to style himself the Duc de Grantmesnil, a title dating back to the Holy Roman Empire. He was as generous with his titles as with everything else; both his sons became marquesses and one day he informed his elder daughter that his genealogical research had revealed that she was in fact the Princess of Lorraine.

De Courcy's crime was not so much one of fraud — no one could have lost very much over the Rhodesian deal except himself — as of hubris. His belief in himself was such that he had little time for the minutiae of the law. He saw his personality as painted on a broader canvas than that of normal people.

He married, in 1950, Rosemary Baker, the daughter of a naval commander. The marriage was dissolved in 1973 and he is survived by their two sons and two daughters.

HERBERT KLINE

Herbert Kline, documentary film-maker, died in Los Angeles on February 5 aged 89. He was born on March 13, 1909.

ONE of the first sociopolitical documentary film directors, or as he liked to call himself "a foreign correspondent of the screen". Herbert Kline was on hand to record many of those crises which paved the road to war in the 1930s. He learnt his film-making in the crucible of the Spanish Civil War and his *Heart of Spain* is a graphic account of that savage and bitter conflict. He was similarly present during the Czechoslovak agony and then, when general war engulfed Europe in 1939, he captured on film the overwhelming of Poland by the German war machine. In the 1950s his left-wing leanings led to his falling foul of McCarthyism and he was never able to develop the mainstream Hollywood career he would have liked.

Herbert Kline was born into prosperous middle-class circumstances in Davenport, Iowa, a typical mid-West American town which he always stigmatised "an intellectual Sahara". Rebelling against this background he sharpened his radical instincts in a youth spent, from the age of 14, in wandering round America and seeing at first hand the terrible effects of the Depression on the lives of the vulnerable elements in society. Though his parents protested, he made up for the lack of formal education this vagrant life necessarily entailed, by reading voraciously: Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Walt Whitman, and John Dos Passos.

Later, in New York, he joined the New York Film and Photo League, a radical documentary-making organisation.

He was drawn, like many left-wing intellectuals, to visit Europe by the conflict in Spain and was working as a writer and speaker for a Republican radio station when a Hungarian photographer, Geza Karpathi, came to the studio and asked him to co-operate with him on a film about the struggle. At that stage neither man even knew how a movie camera worked, but this did not deter them. And the result of their collaboration, *Heart of Spain* (1937), a documentary about a Madrid woman who meets the soldier whose life she has saved by giving blood to him, made Kline's name when it was released in New York.

In 1938 he made *Return to Life*, again about the Spanish conflict, in harness with the French photographer and film-maker Henri Cartier-Bresson.

Kline remained in Europe, where events were taking a more sinister turn with the German annexation of the Czech frontier lands in 1938. He bluffed his way into German-occupied territory by pretending to be pro-Nazi (he was in fact Jewish) and filmed rallies and parades at close quarters. He even had the eerie experience of having his equipment carried by Nazi stormtroopers, and then of directing them in front of his camera. As he was to recall later "It was strange for one of my *verboten* and despised racial origin to have a troop of SA men to do my bidding and march and *Heil!* and shout, as they were told."

The result of this strange collaboration, *The Crisis*, was released in 1938. With events in Europe moving to the rhythm of Hitler's timetable of conquest, Kline witnessed the German invasion of Poland in September 1939 and recorded it for his film *Lights Out in Europe* (1940). Its title, echoing as it did Sir Edward Grey's sombre pronouncement on the eve of a previous world war, prefigured the Continent's enslavement to Nazism over the next five years.

He returned to America to collaborate with John Steinbeck on *The Forgotten Village* (1941), a remarkable film about peasant life in Mexico. In a Europe at last liberated from the evil of Nazism it was honoured as Best Feature Documentary at the Brussels Film Festival of 1947. In 1947, too, Kline returned to the theme of Europe under Nazism in *My Father's House*, which was among the first films to document the Holocaust.

But from the outset of the new decade, clouds were gathering on the home front for radicals of Kline's kidney. Senator Joseph McCarthy and his House un-American Activities Committee deplored his left-wing leanings with a vehemence which appeared to outweigh any approval which might have accrued to those of his films which had exposed the nature of tyranny.

Kline was blacklisted and like so many in similar circumstances found his career blighted. His dream of becoming a feature filmmaker was dashed and he did not resume directing until 1970, when he returned to Mexico to make the documentary *Walls of Fire*.

Kline's marriage to Josine Ianco-Starrels was dissolved. He is survived by a son and daughter.


A scene from *The Forgotten Village*, Kline's 1941 collaboration with John Steinbeck

AIR MARSHAL SIR DONALD HALL

Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, KCB, CBE, AFC, died of cancer on January 12 aged 68. He was born on November 11, 1930.

DONALD HALL found himself centre-stage 25 years ago, when Turkish forces invaded Cyprus. As commander of the RAF base at Akrotiri, Britain's largest overseas, he worked around the clock with his staff, organising a major British evacuation. They had to cope with holidaymakers trapped by the Turkish landings in northern Cyprus and with thousands of refugees seeking sanctuary within Britain's two sovereign base areas.

Air Commodore Hall, as he then was, had arrived there at the end of 1973, after making his early reputation as a test pilot and winning the Air Force Cross. As a young flight lieutenant in the 1950s he had been seconded to the Royal Jordanian Air Force as a flying instructor, before having to make a hurried exit at the time of Suez.

He had gone on to fly a wide variety of strike aircraft at the Royal Aircraft and Armaments Experimental Establishment, Boscombe Down, before being given command of the Empire Test Pilots School at Farnborough in the 1960s.

On his return from Cyprus, Hall was rewarded with promotion to air vice-marshal and the command of No 11 Group, the successor to Fighter Command. This was followed by his first posting to the Ministry of Defence, as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operational Requirements).



In 1980, he took over 38 Group, the RAF's largest group (said to be bigger than Air France), responsible for all transport and tactical flying in support of the Army. He was therefore deeply involved in the 1982 Falklands conflict.

His final appointment, in 1983, was Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Systems) in a ministry which had been restructured by Michael Heseltine. As such he was responsible for handling the programme for an all-British early-warning aircraft based on the Nimrod. The project was eventually abandoned in favour of the American AWACS — a decision that Hall and others had been advocating for some time. He retired from the RAF in 1986.

Donald Percy Hall was born in Hull, and went from grammar school to Cranwell, graduating as a fast jet pilot.

On leaving the RAF he joined the aerospace industry and was chairman of Marconi Defence Systems, 1987-89. He then became deputy chairman of GEC-Marconi, travelling the world on the company's behalf, before retiring in 1995.

Hall was a kind, almost self-effacing man who was nonetheless blessed with a single-minded determination to get things done. He rarely raised his voice, but could do so on those few occasions with devastating effect. Standing 6ft 4in tall, he had to squeeze into a fighter cockpit. But he kept himself lean and fit, partly through mountaineering in his youth and, in later years, by hill-walking. A shared love of the Highlands persuaded him and his wife Joyce to retire to Aberdeenshire, from where they would scale the Cairngorms.

Hall was a member of the "Colonels Club", an informal group of rising stars in the RAF who came together in 1980 and decided that, whatever else happened on their climb to the top, they would meet with their wives for a reunion every year. Their adoption of the name "the Colonels", with its overtones of Greece and other *coups d'état*, was a tongue-in-cheek riposte to their seniors in Whitehall who, on hearing of their intention, became concerned that a sinister plot was being hatched. In fact four of them became air marshals, three of them air chief marshals and one a marshal of the RAF. They agreed that the group would stay in being until only two remained alive. The last pair would then lunch together for a toast to "absent friends".

Don Hall, who failed for the first time to attend last year's event, is survived by his wife and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

February 16, 1892

The Rev Septimus Buss, Vicar of Shoreditch, who held firm views about strong drink, formed a committee to keep watch on local public houses. His action was resented by the licensees

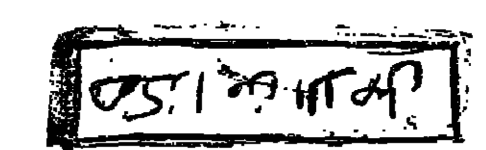
A NOISY MEETING

Last night a public meeting, convened by the East London Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society, was held at the Shoreditch town hall, "to protest against the unnecessary interference of the vicar of the parish, the Rev Septimus Buss, with matters outside his parochial duties, to the annoyance of a large section of rate-payers and influential parishioners". The vicar having formed a Shoreditch Vigilance Committee for the purpose of watching the local public houses, the meeting was called, and the town hall was granted on the petition of 50 disinterested ratepayers. Mr Buss thereupon intimated to the organisers of the meeting that he, with his supporters, would attend, with the view of moving an amendment to any resolution that might be moved condemning his action.

Some time before the proceedings began the building was crowded. When Mr F.N. Charrington, LCC, endeavoured to mount the platform a rush was made by some persons to stop him, but he was enabled to gain a footing, though not until after a portion of the brasswork surrounding the stage had been broken. Mr W. Hudson (spirit merchant), who presided, was greeted with mingled cheers and hooting. He said that they had not met to discuss the great temperance question. The meeting had been called to consider an important and extraordinary resolution, and he trusted that all present, after it had been passed, would leave the hall better Christians. The rest of the chairman's remarks were continually interrupted. Amid great uproar Mr Cawler moved: "That the distribution of the cards headed 'Hints to Watchers' by the Rev Septimus Buss, to the Shoreditch Vigilance Committee, is deserving of the severest condemnation: such action, in the opinion of this meeting, being immoral, un-English, and a totally unnecessary interference with a respectable class of tradesmen, who are licenced by the State, who also contribute largely to imperial and local taxation, and against whom the police possess ample powers to take legal proceedings in the event of any infraction of the law."

Mr Leah then rose to second the motion, but the uproar greatly increased. In the gallery a free fight was in progress, and open challenges were thrown out on all sides.

The chairman now claimed order for Mr Buss. Upon rising he was greeted by vehement cheering and hooting. For a long time the uproar was very great. Mr F.N.Charrington next attempted to address the meeting, speaking from the platform. He was speedily howled down. As the uproar increased, the chairman rose and said he regretted that the temper of the meeting was such that they would not give the rev. gentleman the hearing to which he was entitled. Consequently he was compelled to put the resolution. After a show of hands had been taken for and against, the chairman declared the result to be a tie, but a second vote being taken, the resolution was declared to be carried. The meeting terminated amidst great disorder and Mr Buss had to be escorted by the police until he was well out of the building.



NEWS

Byers scraps wage rules

■ Stephen Byers is risking his first confrontation with the trade unions by allowing employers to escape the need to keep special records to show that they are observing the minimum wage. And the Industry Secretary has scrapped plans for details of the minimum wage to accompany every payslip.

Mr Byers has concluded that the regulations would be too burdensome and costly for industry and that the publicity surrounding the launch of the minimum wage on April 1 will be enough to inform people of their entitlements ....Page 1

Blair backs genetically modified food

■ Tony Blair gave his approval to genetically modified food. Downing Street said that the Prime Minister thought it was safe, that he ate it himself, and that he believed it could be tastier, cheaper and healthier ....Pages 1, 4

Paedophile action

Paedophiles and dangerous psychopaths will be locked up indefinitely, even if they have not committed a crime, under draconian proposals ....Page 1

Cancer drug warning

Tamoxifen, the anti-cancer drug which saves 1,000 lives a year in Britain, can itself cause cancer and should not be used as a preventive medicine by healthy women, according to a study....Page 1

NHS pay

Britain's best nurses and doctors will be rewarded with higher wages under a radical shake up of NHS pay announced by the Government ....Page 2

Travelling justice

It took Mr Justice Potts and his court marginally longer to enter the Republic of Belarus than it did the German army in the early hours of June 22, 1941 ....Page 3

'Misleading' advice

The tobacco industry misleads smokers about the tar and nicotine that can be inhaled from "light" cigarettes, says new research ....Page 6

Candidate's choice

A Labour candidate for the Scottish parliament disclosed that she intends to become the first single mother to have a baby by in-vitro fertilisation in Scotland.....Page 7

Trimble battle

David Trimble's supporters were battling to preserve his slim majority before today's vote to ratify the proposed structure of Northern Ireland's executive......Page 8

Lost beach

A £12.7 million coastal defence scheme is stripping Minehead's beaches of their sand, leaving the Somerset town's tourist industry in turmoil ....Page 9

Wrong model

Diplomats accused Madeleine Albright of having little understanding of Kosovo after she told a negotiator that he should adopt Gerry Adams as a model......Page 10

Racist trial

In the Jasper County Court House, Texas, today a white supremacist will be the first to go on trial for a killing as horrible as any in recent memory......Page 11

Murder mystery

The mystery of the Fontainebleau fiancé murders which has baffled police for more than a decade took another turn when a law student who confessed on Saturday retracted his confession....Page 12

Happy new rabbit

Chinese will today celebrate the lunar festival, ushering in the Year of the Rabbit. The rabbit is regarded as easy-going, promising good fortune ....Page 13

Too much, too young, too bad

■ One of Britain's wealthiest men won High Court approval to defer his son's inheritance to protect him from the dangers of having too much money too young. Earl Percy, 14, the eldest son of the 12th Duke of Northumberland, was to have received £250,000 a year at 18 but the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland thought it would be dangerous ....Pages 1, 3

NEIL MUNNS/PA



Dave Stewart and Annie Lennox of *The Eurythmics* after they reformed to play at the Brit Awards in the London Arena tonight

BUSINESS

Job losses: Nearly 900 food jobs were lost as Booker announced the closure of a distribution centre in Northampton and Hazlewood Foods said it is to shut down a factory in Cambridgeshire..........Page 25

Orange alliance: Britain's third-largest mobile phone company is in talks with E-Plus, its German rival, which could lead to a multi-billion pound alliance ....Page 25

German challenge: Frankfurt will launch a challenge to London's position with a 10-year plan to build 20 skyscrapers to lure the world's financial powerhouses..........Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 72.50 to 6023.2. The pound fell 0.16 cents to $1.6277 but rose against the euro to 68.90p. The index rose to 100.5 from 100.2 ....Page 28

SPORT

Football: Kevin Keegan met Football Association officials and is expected to be offered an interim post working with Howard Wilkinson, the caretaker coach..........Page 48

Golf: Nick Faldo has scrambled into the Andersen Consulting World Match Play championship by virtue of a withdrawal and is likely to meet Tiger Woods in the first round..................Page 40

Fantasy Football: See how you are faring..................Page 42

Rugby union: Austin Healey will miss the England international against Scotland at Twickenham on Saturday because Leicester, his club, suspended him for 21 days after he had been cited by London Irish for allegedly stamping on one of their players..................Page 45

ARTS

Hot in Hollywood: Kevin Costner strives for artistic credibility in his new film *Message in a Bottle*, while Mel Gibson takes the American box office honours with his action flick *Payback*..................Page 17

Worth the wait: The return of Terrence Malick, the most self-effacing director in present-day Hollywood, becomes the talk of the town as the Berlin Film Festival unveils *The Thin Red Line*..................Page 17

Open house: Marcus Binney takes a tour of the magnificent foyers and state-of-the-art backstage facilities at the redeveloped Royal Opera House..................Page 18

Irish import: Mark O'Rowe's new play, *Howie the Rookie*, offers London a tough and uncompromising view of Irish life..................Page 19

FEATURES

Feelings: Learn to live with them and you can be liberated.. Page 14

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Tamoxifen, the wonder drug for sufferers of breast cancer..................Page 14

Clean sweep: Don't mention Hoover. The vacuum cleaner James Dyson designed made him rich but he dreams of immortality..........Page 15

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Fairytale success: Sophie Hamilton believes in fairies. Her business of making fairy dresses is due to break even in its first six months of trading..................Page 33

LAW

Legal women: Despite wide changes in society the law is a masculine profession, says Frances Gibb as she previews the 1999 Woman Lawyer Conference..................Page 35

Uncharitable: Are charities missing out because of ignorance of the legal side of doing business as voluntary organisations?..........Page 37

THE PAPERS

The Bill Clinton saga ended not with a bang, but a whimper. Was the trial worth it? We doubt it. All that the US has to show after a year of political paralysis is a diminished presidency, a Congress mired hopelessly in bitter partisanship, and a media bereft of the little trust it had. Still, the nightmare is over — sort of — *The Straits Times*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **HOMES**
Near Tower Bridge, a showcase for the new Mayor ... but where will local people live?

■ **INTERFACE**
The boys who got through £25 million before their game came up trumps

RADIO & TV

Preview: How to create a horticultural haven (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph finds a classy psychological thriller..........Pages 46, 47

OPINION

No time for noes

Today the Northern Ireland Assembly should vote on the shape and structure of the Province's future government. It would be wrong for discontented Unionists to register their dissent by voting against. It would be worse than a crime, it would be a mistake.......... Page 21

Straw's judgment

Where the rights of the individual and the need to protect society meet, a dilemma awaits every Home Secretary. Jack Straw confronted this conundrum.....Page 21

A pale petition

The British media are accused of suppressing debate on the Elgin Marbles. To those of our readers who think that we have already devoted an excess of argument, this may come as a surprise.....Page 21

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Hostels could work if the word on the street said that they were not bad places. It is not long, after all, since some kind of hostel or dormitory life was part of everyone's experience..................Page 20

ROY HATTERSLEY

Have no doubt that pleasing the Prime Minister is the motive for most of those union leaders supporting Alun Michael..........Page 20

JAMES HEARTFIELD

No law could satisfy the emotional needs embodied in the War Crimes Bill. It is not possible to put evil on trial, only men..................Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Next to sex scandals, food scares are the trickiest problems for any Government to handle.......Page 4

OBITUARIES

Kenneth de Courcy, financier; **Herbert Kline**, film-maker; **Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall**..................Page 23

LETTERS

The Elgin Marbles; ethnic quotas for police; international debt; Longbridge; Queen Victoria's governess; rights to the isles; Amy Johnson; Pevsner in a pocket..................Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,028

ACROSS
1 Backward sets I had, like this? (6).
5 Horse, got out of bed, walks unsteadily (8).
9 No buyer of book to bring author royalty? (8).
10 You may be this, but not me (6).
11 Feel nostalgic about our island state (8).
12 Doctor drawn into Ulster conflict (6).
13 E.g. people watching TV interview (8).
15 Builder of small home or large cathedral (4).
17 Expression of surprise produced by current state (1,3).
19 Leader of host (8).
20 King's casual about source of warning (6).
21 Free as 5 ac. finally? (8).
22 In this case, veal is cooked (6).
23 Oriental criminals taking racket back into island (8).
24 Flower that reminds you of one or two girls (8).
25 After short time, fish goes into seaweed (6).

DOWN
2 Wrote novel about chap, a deceptive sort (3-5).
3 Rues the ways such a citizen negotiates (8).
4 Repeatedly low – as Victoria is, for example (4,5).
5 This business doesn't involve mass production, however (7,8).
6 Appreciated greeting (7).
7 RAF manoeuvres, but not at these exercises (8).
8 Liable to stall, adroitly manouevred (8).
14 For example, cold grouse or beef (9).
15 Take advantage of easy victory (4,4).
16 See a table set – what's in the middle? (8).
17 Soldiers may be missing this idleness (8).
18 Influenced by everybody, despite one's best efforts (5,3).
19 Possibly end of sail and of mast in wreckage (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,027



ORGANGRINDER
P A O U E P M S
EXPANSIVE SMART
N E E N D O I R
IODINE FLAMENCO
N T E T V
GAELIC ASPIRATE
N T C S N I
DITTYBAG SCENIC
E H N U H
AIRSTRIP ERRATA
R C E S M I N R
LINEN TAILORING
Y E S E E U M E
TEARONESHAIR

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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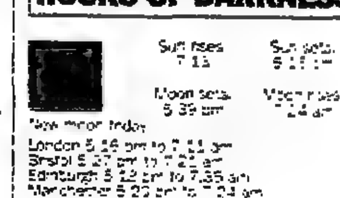
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HOURS OF DARKNESS



Sun rises: 7 13 | Sun sets: 5 1[illegible]

Moon sets: 5 39 am | Moon rises: [illegible]

New moon today

London 5 16 pm to 7 11 am
Bristol 5 27 pm to 7 2[illegible] am
Edinburgh 5 12 pm to 7 35 am
Manchester 5 20 pm to 7 24 am
Penzance 5 41 pm to 7 30 am



FORECAST

☐ **General:** a few showers in S and E England, W England, N Ireland, Wales showery with longer period of rain in N later. Scotland cold, v windy, with showers and longer spell of rain which will turn to snow, bringing blizzards to Highlands. Tonight widespread frost. More rain, hill-snow in W Scotland, N Ireland by dawn.

☐ **Lndn, SE, Cent S, E Eng, E Anglia, Midlds, Chl Is:** rain will clear; sunny; few showers. Light NW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **SW Engl, S Wales:** a few showers. Freshening NW wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **N Wales, NW, Cent N, NE England, Lakes, IoM:** a few showers, more rain later, turning to sleet and snow over hills. Strong NW wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Brdrs, E'brgh, D'dee, SW Scotld, Ggow:** showers, longer spell of rain, then snow. Strong W/NW wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Ab'dn, Cent Highlds, Mry Frth, NE Scotld:** showers, longer spells of rain, snow. Strong/gale NW wind. Max (39F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotld, Orkny, Shetld:** heavy rain turning to snow. Blizzards. Strong/gale NW wind. Max 3C (37F)

☐ **N Ireland:** showers, then widespread rain. Strong NW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Irish Rep:** bright spells, wintry showers. Fresh/strong NW wind. Max 7C (45F)

☐ **Outlook:** rain tomorrow, snow in Scotland. Thurs mild, cloudy, some drizzle

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

[illegible]

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	1.6	0.01	11	52	c	Kinloss	4.2	0.02	11	52	r
Anglesey	1.7	0.01	9	48	b	Leeds	-	0.01	9	48	c
Aspatria	1.6	0.04	[illegible]	[illegible]	r	Leuchars	2.5	0.04	10	50	c
Aviemore	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	45	sh	Littlehampton	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	48	s
Birmingham	[illegible]	0.01	[illegible]	45	c	London	[illegible]	0.05	[illegible]	48	s
Bognor R	[illegible]	0.04	[illegible]	48	s	Lowestoft	4.2	0.05	[illegible]	46	s
Bournemouth	[illegible]	0.02	11	52	[illegible]	Manchester	[illegible]	[illegible]	8	46	[illegible]
Bristol	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	43	[illegible]	Margate	4.5	0.05	[illegible]	46	s
Buxton	[illegible]	0.01	5	41	du	Morecambe	[illegible]	0.01	[illegible]	45	du
Cardiff	1.9	[illegible]	10	50	[illegible]	Newcastle	[illegible]	0.07	[illegible]	45	r
[illegible]	1.0	[illegible]	[illegible]	49	s	Newquay	1.1	0.11	8	46	[illegible]
Cleethorpes	[illegible]	0.01	[illegible]	48	du	Norwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	8	46	[illegible]
Colwyn Bay	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	50	[illegible]	Oxford	[illegible]	0.01	10	50	[illegible]
Cromer	[illegible]	0.03	[illegible]	45	s	Penzance	[illegible]	0.13	[illegible]	50	[illegible]
Eastbourne	[illegible]	0.07	[illegible]	45	s	Poole	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Edinburgh	1.4	0.04	10	50	s	Ross on Wye	2.3	0.01	9	48	b
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	46	sh	Saunton Sands	2.9	0.14	9	48	[illegible]
Exmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	45	s	Scarborough	[illegible]	0.01	8	46	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	0.01	5	40	b	Shrewsbury	0.3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	c
Folkestone	[illegible]	0.1[illegible]	8	40	b	Skegness	1.4	[illegible]	[illegible]	46	[illegible]
Glasgow	[illegible]	0.04	[illegible]	[illegible]	r	Southend	4.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	44	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	52	[illegible]	Southport	[illegible]	0.01	7	45	b
Hastings	[illegible]	0.07	8	46	b	Southsea	4.7	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	r
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	50	s	Stornoway	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	46	r
Herne Bay	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	48	[illegible]	Swanage	[illegible]	0.02	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hove	[illegible]	0.07	[illegible]	45	b	Teignmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hunstanton	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	49	[illegible]	Tenby	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	[illegible]	c
Isle of Man	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	45	[illegible]	Tiree	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]
Isle of Wight	[illegible]	0.05	[illegible]	48	b	Torquay	4.5	[illegible]	11	52	[illegible]
Jersey	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	50	[illegible]	Tynemouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	45	[illegible]

Yesterday: highest day max: Poole, Dorset, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 5C [illegible]; highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.46in; most sun: Jersey, 7.2hr

ABROAD

Cologne	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	Madrid	5	41	s	Rome	[illegible]	45	[illegible]
C'phagn	1	30	c	Majorca	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Salzburg	3	[illegible]	sn
Corfu	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	Malaga	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	S Frisco	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	[illegible]	48	c	Malta	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Santiago	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dubrovnik	[illegible]	42	[illegible]	Melbourne	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	S Paulo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Faro	[illegible]	54	[illegible]	Mexico C	12	[illegible]	s	Seoul	[illegible]	30	sn
Florence	4	[illegible]	f	Miami	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Singapore	30	86	[illegible]
Frankfurt	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	Milan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Funchal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Strasbrg	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Geneva	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Moscow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sydney	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gibraltar	[illegible]	52	[illegible]	Munich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tangier	[illegible]	54	f
Helsinki	0	[illegible]	d	Nairobi	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tel Aviv	[illegible]	70	s
Hong K	30	86	[illegible]	Naples	[illegible]	[illegible]	s	Tenerife	19	[illegible]	[illegible]
Innsbruck	-4	[illegible]	sn	N Delhi	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tokyo	[illegible]	46	s
Istanbul	[illegible]	40	[illegible]	N York	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Toronto	[illegible]	25	s
Jeddah	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nice	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tunis	[illegible]	54	f
Jo'burg	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Valencia	9	49	s
L Palmas	20	68	[illegible]	Paris	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Vancvr	[illegible]	37	f
Le Touqt	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	Perth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Venice	[illegible]	36	c
Lisbon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Prague	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Vienna	1	30	[illegible]
Locarno	[illegible]	41	[illegible]	Reykjavik	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Warsaw	[illegible]	30	c
L Angeles	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rhodes	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Washton	[illegible]	39	s
Luxembg	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rio de J	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Wellngton	19	66	[illegible]
Luxor	[illegible]	[illegible]	s	Riyadh	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zurich	-4	25	c

[illegible]

NOON TODAY

Changes to chart from noon: high A sees little change. High G drifts NE and declines. High S moves east as it becomes indistinct. Low N slides slowly southeast as it fills

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1:23	4.1	13.30	4.3	Liverpool	11:20	9.4	23:40	9.3
Avonmouth	7:16	13.2	19:37	13.2	London Bridge	1:45	7.0	14:11	7.2
Belfast	11:06	3.5	23:30	3.3	Lowestoft	9:42	2.4	21:42	2.6
Cardiff	7:02	12.2	19:23	12.2	Margate	-	-	12:21	4.7
Devonport	5:51	5.4	18:14	5.3	Milford Haven	6:17	6.8	18:37	6.8
Dover	11:01	6.4	23:25	6.6	Newquay	5:08	6.9	17:28	6.8
Dublin	11.25	4.1	-	-	Oban	5:57	4.0	18:14	3.9
Falmouth	5:22	5.2	17:45	5.1	Penzance	4:38	5.5	16:57	5.4
Greenock	0:27	3.1	12:51	3.4	Portland	7:12	2.0	19:42	1.9
Harwich	-	-	12:07	3.9	Portsmouth	11:20	4.6	23:48	4.6
Holyhead	10:24	5.6	22:46	5.5	Shoreham	11:13	6.1	23:42	6.3
Hull (Albert D)	6:25	8.4	18:34	8.7	Southampton	11:01	4.5	23:31	4.5
Ilfracombe	6.04	9.1	18:24	9.1	Swansea	6:24	12.2	18:45	12.2
King's Lynn	6:28	6.4	18:33	7.0	Tees	3:49	9.7	15:58	10.0
Leith	2.40	5.4	14:56	5.5	Walton-On-Naze	11:56	4.1	-	-

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Greg Dyke: saving the NHS
Business, Page 32

BUSINESS · LAW · SPORT · TELEVISION

THE TIMES

Keegan: will he, won't he?
Sport, Page 48

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft · TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 1999

Mobile phone operator lines up German rival

Orange aims for E-Plus deal

BY CHRIS AYRES

ORANGE, Britain's third-largest mobile phone company, is understood to be in talks with E-Plus, its German rival, which could lead to a multibillion-pound alliance between the two companies.

The deal could involve Orange bidding for a controlling stake in E-Plus, which is currently thought to be worth up to £15 billion. Alternatively, Orange could become a "virtual network operator" in Germany by bulk-purchasing several billion minutes of air time from E-Plus and re-selling them under its own brand. Sources close to Orange say the company is prepared to go to the market to raise cash to help to fund any potential deal.

Talks between Orange and E-Plus come as the German mobile phone company faces the possible loss of two large shareholders — Vodafone and Bell South. Vodafone needs to sell its 17.5 per cent stake in the company to help it to gain regulatory clearance for its £67 billion merger with AirTouch of the US. If the merger goes ahead, the combined company will instead focus on AirTouch's stake in the more successful German mobile phone operator, Mannesmann.

Meanwhile, it is thought that Bell South is also considering selling its 22.5 per cent stake in E-Plus. It is understood that the US operator has failed to come to an agreement with Otelo, E-Plus's controlling shareholder, which would have seen the companies work together more closely. Otelo is owned by Veba and RWE, the diversified German utilities.

Analysts believe that Otelo is frustrated with the disappointing performance of E-Plus and would welcome a new partner. However, it has yet to agree to Orange buying a controlling stake in the company. If such a deal did go ahead, E-Plus would be rebranded Orange, and the British company would parachute in new management. The deal would give Orange an estimated two million customers in Germany.

The talks between Orange and E-Plus are part of a wider offensive to be launched on the European market by Orange, partly inspired by the merger of AirTouch and Vodafone. If Orange's negotiations with E-Plus fail, the company is understood to be considering a similar deal with Bouygues, the French mobile phone group. Again, the company could try to buy a controlling stake in Bouygues — the 20 per cent stake owned by Britain's Cable & Wireless is currently up for sale — or it could bulk-buy air time from the company to become a "virtual network operator".

Although it is thought that Orange would like to control at least one other network in Europe, the company has previously said that it expects its international expansion strategy to be heavily based on operating so-called virtual networks.

Alexander Gunz, a telecoms analyst at ABN Amro, the investment bank, said: "The German market would offer a lot of potential to Orange, given the size of the country and its relatively low market penetration. The Vodafone/AirTouch deal has also sped up mobile phones deals, with companies such as Orange keen to get a presence outside their home markets."

Both E-Plus and Orange were launched in 1994, and both were late entrants to their respective markets. However, while Orange went on to establish a highly successful brand E-Plus struggled to compete with its larger rivals.

Orange, headed by Hans Snook, is also preparing to bid for a "third generation" mobile phone licence in the UK, which would see the company introduce services such as video conferencing. The auction is expected to take place early next year.

Tempus, page 28

Business Today



Rosemary Righter says that a tale of 'two Germanys is reaching conclusion

page 29

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6023.2	(+72.5)
Yield	2.58%	
FTSE All Share	2761.57	(+26.16)
Nikkei	14054.72	(+81.03)
New York:		
Dow Jones	Closed	
S&P Composite	—	

US RATE

Federal Funds	Closed	(4¾%)
Long bond	—	(99¹⁄₃₂)
Yield	—	(5.43%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5⁹⁄₁₆%	(5¹¹⁄₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	117.25	(117.25)

STERLING

New York:		
$	Closed	(1.6338)
London:		
$	1.6284	(1.6294)
€	1.4483	(1.4448)
SFr	2.3155	(2.3063)
Yen	188.12	(186.24)
£ Index	100.5	(100.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	Closed	(1.1306)
SFr	—	(1.4140)
Yen	—	(114.16)
$ index	105.5	(105.0)

Tokyo close Yen 114.07

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 16-day (Apr)	$10.55	($10.55)

GOLD

London close	$289.50	($289.45)

Exchange rates .... Page 26

British Biotech cancer drug blow

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE British Biotech cancer drug once seen as a potential blockbuster has failed to produce the desired results in the first completed human trials, raising serious doubts about the future development of the compound.

The potential of marimastat as a treatment for a wide range of cancers briefly gave British Biotech a stock market value of £2 billion. Yesterday its shares fell 17 per cent to a new low of 21½p, valuing the company at about just £140 million.

It has also emerged that the British Medical Association is backing Andy Millar, sacked last year as British Biotech's director of clinical trials, in his compensation battle. His action in warning a large shareholder of poor trial results and the company's over-optimism precipitated a crisis that led to the departure of the chief executive and a fundamental change of strategy.

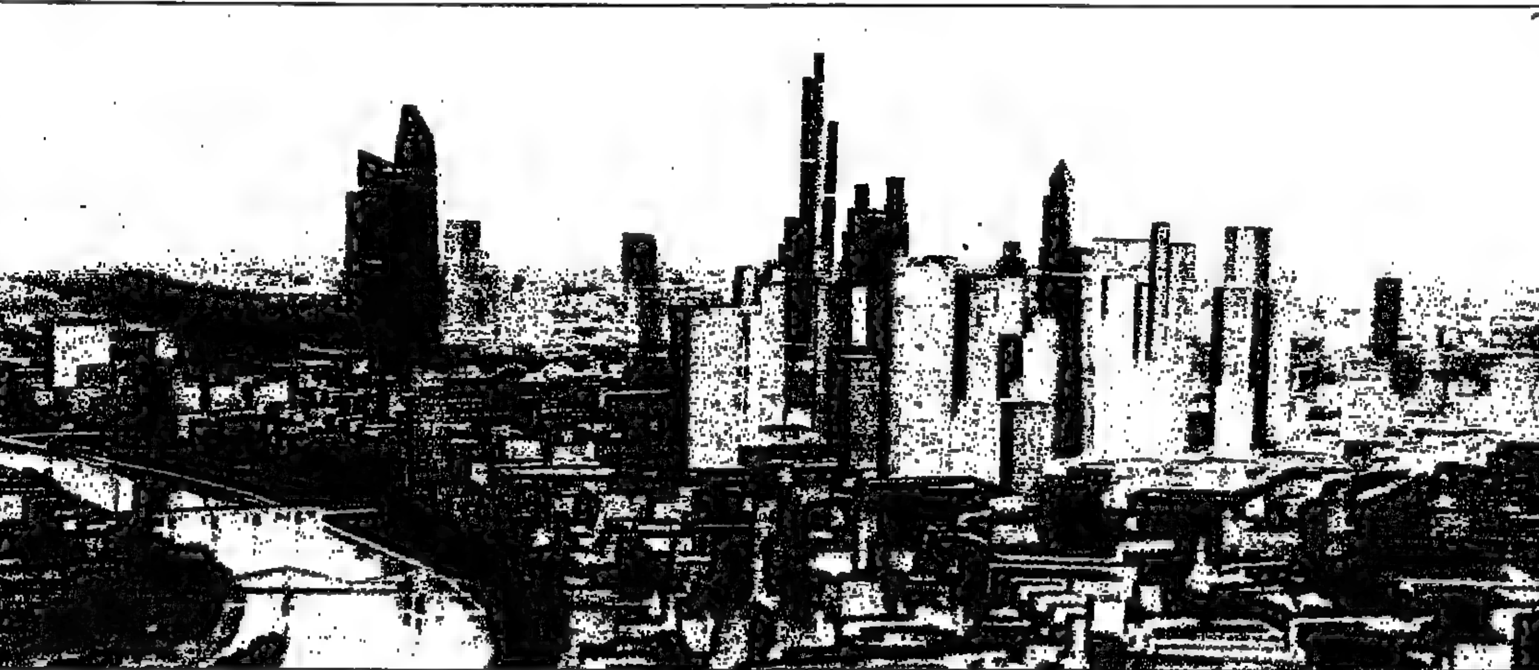
The BMA has said it will bear tens of thousands of pounds of Dr Millar's legal costs because it believes his case raises "issues of fundamental importance to the medical profession".

Results of a phase III study of marimastat in pancreatic cancer largely bear out Dr Millar's warnings. None of three different doses proved better than Gemzar, the existing standard therapy, although a secondary analysis suggests that the highest 25mg dose might be as good. Peder Jensen, development director, rejected a suggestion that British Biotech's chances of success could have been improved had it listened to Dr Millar. He said Dr Millar had insufficient information to back his judgment, adding: "It just happened that he may have been right in some of the things he predicted at that time."

British Biotech's third-quarter results showed losses for the year so far cut by 20 per cent to £24.5 million, with £100 million of cash on its books.

The Times is also bearing part of Dr Millar's legal costs, under the terms of an affidavit he gave the paper when it was contesting an injunction.

Commentary, page 27



Frankfurt, the Euro-City, as it might look after completion of the "Frankfurt 2000" high-rise development plan aimed at luring international banks there

Frankfurt builds challenge to London

BY SIGRID AUFTERBECK AND CARL MORTISHED

FRANKFURT will next month launch a property challenge to London's pre-eminent position as the financial centre of Europe. Construction work will start on another big office complex in Frankfurt, forming part of a ten-year masterplan to build 20 skyscrapers to lure the world's financial powerhouses to the German city.

Work is due to start on Skylight, a 355,000 sq ft complex, designed by Richard Rogers, with trading floors designed to attract investment banks. Another development near by, Die Welle, will provide 377,000 sq ft, also with trading floors to satisfy Frankfurt's ambition to corner more of the lucrative securities industry.

The two developments form part of "Frankfurt 2000", a plan to create 60.5 million sq ft of new office space over the next decade. Martin Wentz, the city's chief planner, said: "Frankfurt 2000 is our invitation to the world. As Frankfurt has gained momentum by the locating of the European Central Bank, we are prepared to take the role of the Euro-City."

Frankfurt's plans will undoubtedly impinge on the expansion plans for London's Canary Wharf. Jonathan Adams, of DTZ Debenham Thorpe, reckons that Frankfurt is now a genuine threat. "Banks that used to turn down offers from Frankfurt are now examining them thoroughly," he said.

Frankfurt property brokers are pushing hard to sell their city, offering discounts of up to 20 per cent off headline rents.

Robert Menke, of Jones Lang Wootton in Frankfurt, says he has been approached by UK institutions seeking space. Frankfurt is wooing international banks, and Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley have signed deals to increase their occupancy there. Incentives include fitting-out costs and rent-free periods. Herr Menke expects a second wave of international banks to come there. "There is a demand for trading space in Frankfurt, which will be met during the next years," he said.

Commentary, page 27

FSA to delay scathing unit trust report

BY SUSAN EMMETT

THE publication of an independent report condemning unit trusts for being overpriced and offering poor value has been delayed after an outcry from the fund management industry.

The study, written by an American economist working for the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, said investors were losing billions of pounds a year because of charges. Kevin James, who started his research while working for the Securities and Exchange Commission, the senior US financial regulator, argues that investors have to put in £1.55 to get the full market return for £1.

The study, however, was criticised by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) as "just simply wrong". Philip Warland, director-general of Autif, said: "We told the FSA that it was flawed and that it was likely to damage their reputation. We did not tell them not to publish."

The report was to be published by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, an independent think-tank. Andrew Hilton, director of the CSFI said: "I very much hope that if the FSA doesn't let us publish this report they will support the idea of a debate."

An FSA official said that the paper was a draft and that as yet there had been no decision on whether or not to publish it.

Mr James aired his ideas last night at the London School of Economics. However, he said he could not comment on the status of the report at this stage.

The dispute comes only weeks before the launch of individual savings accounts (Isas), which will replace Peps and Tessas in April. It also comes at a time when the Government is trying to encourage more people to save and highlight best-buy funds by using the quality-assurance Catmark. To qualify for a Catmark, funds must not levy annual charges of more than 1 per cent. On average, funds charge 1.5 per cent a year with 5 per cent in initial fees.

Mr James's paper will stoke up the debate over the performance of managed funds just as fund managers gear up for the final round of Pep sales. Managed funds have been criticised by several surveys that suggest investors may be better off in tracker funds.

Commentary, page 27

Hazlewood and Booker to shed 900 jobs

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

NEARLY 900 jobs were lost in the British food industry yesterday as Booker announced the closure of a distribution centre in Northampton and Hazlewood Foods said it is to shut down a factory in Cambridgeshire.

Booker is cutting 612 jobs in total. More than 500 will come from the closure of its Northampton distribution centre and call centre. Jobs will also go at its Hatfield, Haydock and Bristol operations. The cuts arise from the sale by Booker of the goodwill and some assets of Booker Wholesale Foods to Palmer & Harvey McLane, a privately owned distribution company, for £4.4 million.

Although Palmer & Harvey McLane, which is based in Hove, East Sussex, and which had turnover of £2.4 billion last year, is acquiring the business, it does not need all of the existing warehouse space, vehicles or staff.

The redundancies and other associated costs will result in a £23 million exceptional loss this year for Booker.

Stuart Rose, chief executive of Booker, said that the sale "tidies up" the core cash-and-carry business.

Efforts are still being made to sell Booker's food service business, its fish farming and its poultry divisions. Refinancing talks with Booker's banks are continuing and are thought unlikely to conclude before Easter. Its shares fell 7½p to 64½p.

Hazlewood Foods is axing 250 jobs through the closure of its loss-making sliced cooked meats and delicatessen factory at Wisbech in Cambridgeshire. The closure will lead to an exceptional charge of £20 million. Its shares closed 3½p higher at 118½p.

US ruling for Griffin traders

BY JASON NISSE

TRADERS on Liffe, who lost thousands of pounds when a rogue trader brought the collapse of Griffin Trading at Christmas, will be able to recover 80 per cent of their losses after a US ruling.

Many of the traderswere threatened with ruin when John Park, a 27-year-old dealer, lost £6.2 million and forced Griffin into liquidation. They had been told they might only see two fifths of the money they had tied up with Griffin, a clearing house based in London and Chicago, when it collapsed.

However, Finbarr O'Connell and Mike Jervis of Grant Thornton, the provisional liquidators of Griffin, have established that under US law the traders are preferential creditors.

Yesterday they wrote to Griffin's clients saying that, thanks to this ruling, the traders should receive up to 80 per cent of their money back.

Warburg Pincus arm falls to Credit Suisse

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

CREDIT SUISSE GROUP, Europe's fourth-largest bank, yesterday made its biggest move yet into the US fund management market with the $650 million (£400 million) purchase of Warburg Pincus Asset Management.

The bank, Switzerland's second-largest financial services group is taking a 19.9 per cent stake in the Wall Street partnership Warburg Pincus but is buying the firm's asset management business outright. The deal comes after a year of the Swiss trying to persuade Warburg Pincus to sell.

The deal will see the Warburg Pincus arm merged into Credit Suisse Asset Management. With Warburg Pincus's £14 billion of assets under management, Credit Suisse's total assets under management will total £150 billion.

Lukas Muhlemann, the chief executive of Credit Suisse, said Warburg Pincus's expertise in the US market, especially in the lucrative high-net worth sector of the mutual fund industry, would be crucial to Credit Suisse's growth in the US.

Mr Muhlemann said: "It is a critical strategic move to complete our product capability, expand our US presence and better address client needs. The result will be greater service to clients, opportunity for employees and value for shareholders."

Warburg Pincus owes its origins to the legendary Eric Warburg, who escaped Nazi Germany in the 1930s and made his fortune on Wall Street. It has made its name in the UK as an investor in several high-profile businesses including Channel 5, and the Jordan Formula One motor racing team, as well as John Charcol, the mortage broker.

Hotel plan for In and Out Club

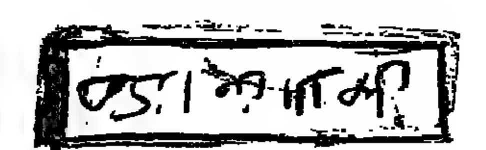
BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE former In and Out club on London's Piccadilly could become a luxury hotel under an ambitious £150 million scheme put forward by Peter Lukas, the property developer.

Mr Lukas, through his company, Duke of Saxony Enterprises, has submitted plans for a site covering not only the In and Out Club but also the adjoining Iceni nightclub, which he already owns, and the Green Park Hotel.

Subject to planning consent, he is proposing to buy the entire site, turning it into a 246-room hotel, with 11 residential units and several shops. The Grade I-listed club is being sold by its secretive Kuwaiti owners, who are asking £50 million, while the Green Park Hotel is up for grabs at about £35 million.

Mr Lukas, whose previous hotel developments include the former Pearl Assurance building in High Holborn, said he was confident of securing the necessary funding.



Royal Ordnance workers face 5% earnings cut, says union

By Adam Jones

WORKERS at Royal Ordnance, the loss-making guns and ammunition arm of British Aerospace, face a cut in earnings of at least 5 per cent this year, a union leader claimed after talks with management yesterday.

Jack Dromey, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, claimed that the 4,400-strong Royal Ordnance workforce face a salary freeze because there is a substantial profit-related pay element to their wages.

Mr Dromey said workers are also likely to have to make payments towards their pensions once again because of the company's troubles. They had previously enjoyed a contributions holiday. The net effect would leave their 1999 earnings substantially below last year.

Mr Dromey called on the Government, as the biggest Royal Ordnance customer, to come up with a more supportive partnership arrangement that would guarantee its long-term future — and ensure that the UK armed forces would not be forced into the insecure position of relying on foreign companies for ammunition. He said: "British Aerospace has an obligation to Royal Ordnance, whose profits in the 1980s saved BAe from collapse. But the main responsibility must fall on defence ministers."

Royal Ordnance currently has 12 plants. However, two of these are due to close and more are thought to be under threat. The medium calibre ammunitions plant in Faldingworth, Lincolnshire, will close this year, with the work being transferred to South Wales. Workers rejected an offer to move to the Welsh plant, a Royal Ordnance spokesman said.

The fate of the Bishopton plant near Glasgow was sealed when Royal Ordnance lost a vital propellant contract to Denel, the South African state firm. It is due to close by the end of 2000. The Parliamentary defence committee will discuss the Bishopton closure this month.

Mr Dromey said: "The Ministry of Defence should reconsider the closure of strategic capacity like Bishopton and enter into a sensible, long-term, 'best supplier' relationship with Royal Ordnance.

"All we ask is for our Government to give our ordnance factories the same support as found throughout continental Europe."

Rheinmetall of Germany wants to buy Royal Ordnance but British Aerospace is still trying to negotiate a joint venture instead.

The Royal Ordnance spokesman yesterday tried to dismiss a report in a Chilean newspaper that suggested a joint venture to develop a rocket launcher with the Chilean Government is a sales flop.

The collaboration, which directly involved General Pinochet, is still only in the development phase, he said.

Strike fears hit RJB

Shares of the coal producer RJB Mining tumbled 15 per cent yesterday ahead of the expected vote for strike action by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). The more moderate Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) has already voted in favour of strike action at RJB pits. The NUM, which represents 2,500 miners, started voting on whether to strike over pay. It would be the first coalminers' strike in Britain in 15 years. RJB shares closed off 9p at 65½p, down from a high of 590p in 1996.

Select expands

Select, the recruitment company, yesterday announced acquisitions in the UK and Finland together worth £5.21 million. In the UK, Select has acquired an 85 per cent interest in Beresford Blake Thomas, a specialist provider of engineering, medical and social services staff for £4.51 million. In Finland, Select has taken a 70 per cent stake in Office Help, a supplier of temporary accounting and clerical personnel, for £700,000.

Atlantic deal

Atlantic Telecom, the Scottish wireless telephone company, has signed a deal with RDC of Israel to test wireless high-speed data services from July 1999. The technology is said to offer data transmission at more than 25 times the speed of ISDN telephone lines, allowing fast Internet access. If the trials are successful, Atlantic hopes to launch the services before the end of the year.

Bristow quits

David Bristow has resigned from the board of Christian Salvesen, the logistics group. Mr Bristow, 48, is leaving immediately but the company would not say whether he will receive compensation. Last year he was paid £121,000 and had a two-year service contract. Mr Bristow, who the company said was leaving for "personal reasons", ran the food and consumer logistics division. He is replaced by Colin Miles.

Royalblue to expand overseas

By Chris Ayres

ROYALBLUE, the company that produces software for call centres and electronic trading systems, yesterday reported a 50 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £3 million to £4.5 million.

Sales rose 43 per cent from £20.6 million to £29.5 million, and earnings per share rose 43 per cent from 6.5p to 9.3p.

The company yesterday said it aimed to increase its overseas activities over the next 12 months. It said it would "investigate" setting up a permanent presence in at least one Asian financial centre, such as Hong Kong.

John Hamer, chief executive, said: "Our aims for 1999 are to further expand our UK business, and build on the initial successes we have achieved in 1998 in continental Europe and the US. We have an excellent product set, which is the foundation of all our activities, and which we will continue to develop.

"The markets in which we operate are extremely fast moving and competitive, but with these resources and a good order book, the prospects for further growth are positive."

Shares in Royalblue yesterday rose 2½p to 450p. A total dividend of 3p, up from 2.25p will be paid on April 1.

PETER TREVNOR



John Hamer, left, with Andy Melpass, finance director, who saw Royalblue sales up 43 per cent

Prebon to take over Marshalls for £30m

By Caroline Merrell

PREBON YAMANE, the money broker, is to take over City rival Marshalls Finance in a deal worth £30 million.

Job cuts are inevitable under the terms of the merger, which will bring together 500 staff at Prebon's office in Bishopsgate, and 360 Marshalls staff. Patrick Keenan, director of Prebon Yamane, said: "There are almost certain to be job losses, although nothing has been finalised."

The deal had been scheduled to be finalised at the beginning of the month, but discussions broke down because of a 30 per cent equity stake in Marshalls held by British Telecom. BT had wanted to maintain an equity stake in the merged company. Under the new deal, BT's equity stake will be converted to loan notes.

Trevor Harrison, a director of Marshalls, said: "We are all very pleased that the long-term future of Marshalls has been secured."

Mr Keenan said: "We have been is discussions for around two years. Marshalls represents a very good fit."

Marshalls Finance will change its name to Prebon Group after the merger. It will have more than 1,500 brokers and 500 information technology and other support staff generating annual revenues of about £320 million.

Mr Keenan said he believed that there was sure to be further rationalisation among money brokers, in line with the recent spate of banking mergers. The deal is expected to be completed by the middle of April.

Last year, the money broking arm of Intercapital merged with Exco in a £90 million deal.

Flextech has no fears for BBC deal

By Chris Ayres

FLEXTECH, the operator of pay-television channels, yesterday shrugged off reports that the European Commission is investigating its joint venture with the BBC.

News of the investigation almost completely eclipsed Flextech's announcement that it would participate in Microsoft's interactive television trials for six months. Flextech shares fell 26.5p to 700.5p.

As part of Flextech's deal with the BBC, agreed in 1997, the company has developed eight pay-television channels and gained exclusive rights to BBC archive material.

However, it emerged yesterday that the EC is still carrying out a routine investigation in the deal to see if it falls foul of competition rules.

Adam Singer, Flextech's chairman and chief executive, yesterday insisted that the EC had no power to stop the deal. He added, however, that it could have the power to change Flextech's access conditions to the BBC's archives.

"When we did the deal with the BBC we made it clear that it would have to be referred to Brussels. Nothing has changed, and as far as we know there are no problems," he said.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.62	2.44
Austria Sch	20.98	19.32
Belgium Fr	61.76	56.80
Canada $	2.557	2.369
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9362	0.8147
Denmark Kr	11.39	10.50
Egypt	5.76	5.15
Finland Mkk	9.19	8.43
France Fr	10.09	9.22
Germany Dm	3.003	2.761
Greece Dr	494	455
Hong Kong $	13.47	12.27
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17571	12571
Ireland Pt	1.1982	1.1092
Israel Shk	6.97	6.31
Italy Lira	2987	2750
Japan Yen	203.67	186.14
Malta	0.667	0.608
Netherlds Gld	3.391	3.096
New Zealand $	3.13	2.89
Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Portugal Esc	303.69	281.66
S Africa Rd	10.61	9.65
Spain Pta	253.03	234.29
Sweden Kr	13.68	12.58
Switzerland Fr	2.471	2.253
Turkey Lira	576731	532297
USA $	1.739	1.595

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Treasury to publish official data review

THE TREASURY is today expected to publish a review of the government statistical service by KPMG, the accountants, but the City will have to wait for up to another month for results of an inquiry into earnings data, suspended late last year. Indications yesterday were that the KPMG review, commissioned by the Treasury in July, will be unveiled in Parliament today and that it will propose that some of the collection of statistics should be contracted out to help to find efficiencies and savings.

The review of earnings data is expected to be completed by the end of this month or very early in March. Martin Weale, Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, who is in charge of it, said: "We have always been determined to get the results right rather than be rushed by any particular deadline." The Office for National Statistics has confirmed that no earnings figures will be released with tomorrow's January labour market data.

Commentary, page 27

Merger faces US hurdle

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals group, will have to provide further information to the US Federal Trade Commission before it can complete its £48 billion merger with Astra of Sweden. It is believed competition regulators on both sides of the Atlantic are concerned about the dominant position AstraZeneca would have in the anaesthetic market — an issue that threatens Zeneca's deal to market Chirocaine on behalf of Chiroscience. Zeneca still hopes to complete its merger in the second quarter.

Full listing for Text 100

TEXT 100 Group, the Ofex-quoted PR consultant to the IT sector, yesterday announced plans to graduate to London's main market. The company said it hopes that this will enable it to raise funds to finance organic growth as well as allowing overseas investors access to the stock. Text 100 also reported that in the year to July 31, pre-tax profit was up 9 per cent to £1.35 million on turnover up 46 per cent to £16.1 million. Earnings per share remained broadly static, while the dividend rose 20 per cent to 1.4p.

Ultra's £33m orders

ULTRA ELECTRONICS yesterday said it has won contracts worth £33 million. Its North American Sonobuoy operations have a £22 million order from the US Navy for its submarine-detecting devices. Its Weapon Systems Division has won orders worth £5.5 million from Flight Refuelling (Military Systems Division) in the UK and the US Navy for HiPPAG 320 on-board compressors. British Aerospace Defence Systems has placed a £6 million order for command-and-control systems equipment.

GCS returns to market

GRANADA Computer Services, the IT arm of the leisure and media group sold 17 months ago for £89 million, is returning to the market in a share placing to raise up to £160 million. The flotation of the company, known as Synstar, will make a multimillionaire of its managing director, Richard Ferré, and see massive profits for CVC, the venture capitalist that backed the management buyout. Synstar is placing 87 million shares at between 155p and 185p. Unconditional dealings are due to start on March 5.

Babcock success

BABCOCK International Group, the engineering company, yesterday announced that its materials handling division (BMH) had won contracts worth more than $100 million (£62 million) in North America and Brazil. The contracts are a pipeline engineering project for Teppco of Texas and two pulverised coal injection installations at Bethlehem Steel in Baltimore in the US and the Acominas steel mill in Ouro Branco, Brazil. Babcock's shares were up 3½p yesterday to 78p.

ABP announces chief

ASSOCIATED British Ports Holdings, yesterday announced the appointment of Bo Lerenius to the new role of group chief executive, from the spring. He will absorb much of the remit of Andrew Smith, managing director of ABP's port operations, who will consequently leave the company. Mr Lerenius, 52, is vice-chairman of Stena Line, the Swedish shipping group. The company said that its preliminary results, out next week, would be in line with expectations.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SUBSECTIONS 8(5) AND 10(6) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice as follows.

1. He proposes to grant licences under the Telecommunications Act 1984 ("the Act") to Farland Services UK Limited, MTU Inform Europe Limited, GC Pan European Crossing UK Limited and ICO Services Limited ("the Licensees") to run telecommunication systems in the United Kingdom. The licences will be for a period of 6 months, thereafter being subject to revocation on one month's notice.

2. The principal effect of each licence will be to enable each Licensee to install and run telecommunication systems in the United Kingdom which may be connected to telecommunication systems outside the United Kingdom, and to provide a wide range of services but not any domestic services (i.e. services involving the conveyance of messages which originate and are subsequently to terminate in the United Kingdom) or mobile radio services. Each Licence authorises connection to a wide range of other systems, including earth orbiting apparatus.

3. Each licence will be subject to conditions such that section 8 of the Act will apply to it, thereby making each of the systems run under each licence eligible for designation as a public telecommunication system under section 9 of the Act. It is the intention of the Secretary of State to designate each of the Licensees' systems as a public telecommunication system.

4. The Secretary of State proposes to grant each licence in response to an application from each Licensee for such a licence because he considers that it will help to satisfy demands in the United Kingdom for the provision of services of the type authorised, will promote the interests of consumers in respect of the quality and variety of such services, and will maintain and promote effective competition between those engaged in the provision of telecommunication services.

5. He proposes to apply the telecommunications code ("the Code") to Farland Services UK Limited, MTU Inform Europe Limited and GC Pan European Crossing UK Limited subject to certain exceptions and conditions throughout the United Kingdom. The effect of the exceptions and conditions to the application of the Code is that Farland Services UK Limited, MTU Inform Europe Limited and GC Pan European Crossing Limited will each have duties.

(a) to comply with various safety and environmental conditions, in particular (with certain exceptions) to install lines underground or only on such above-ground apparatus as is already installed for any purpose.

(b) to comply with conditions designed to ensure efficiency and economy on the part of each of them, in connection with the execution of works on land concerning the installation, maintenance, repair or alteration of their apparatus;

(c) to consult certain public bodies before exercising particular powers under the Code, including the local planning and highway authorities and English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland, as well as relevant electricity suppliers.

(d) to keep and make available records of the location of underground apparatus and copies of the exceptions and conditions in their respective licences to their powers under the Code; and

(e) to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet certain liabilities arising from the execution of street works.

6. The reason why the Secretary of State proposes to apply the Code to Farland Services UK Limited, MTU Inform Europe Limited and GC Pan European Crossing UK Limited is that they will each need the statutory powers in the Code to install and maintain the telecommunication systems which are to be installed and run under their proposed licences.

7. The reasons why it is proposed that the Code as applied should have effect subject to the exceptions and conditions referred to above are that they are considered requisite or expedient for the purpose of securing that the physical environment is protected, that there is no greater damage to land than necessary, that the systems are installed as safely and economically as possible, and that each Licensee to whom the Code is applied can meet (and relevant persons can enforce) liabilities arising from the execution of works.

8. Representations or objections may be made in respect of the proposed licences, the application of the Code to Farland Services UK Limited, MTU Inform Europe Limited and GC Pan European Crossing UK Limited and the proposed exceptions and conditions referred to above. They should be made in writing by 16 March 1999 and addressed to the undersigned at the Department of Trade and Industry, Communications and Information Industries Directorate, 2.80 Grey, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SS. Copies of the proposed licences can freely be obtained by writing to the Department or by calling 0171 215 1756.

Alan D Proud 16 February 1999

Department of Trade and Industry

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF PUBLIC GAS TRANSPORTER'S LICENCE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE GAS ACT 1986

Southern Electric Pipelines Limited whose registered office is situated at Southern Electric House, Westacott Way, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3QB hereby gives notice that it has made an application to the Director General of Gas Supply for an extension to the licence granted to it under section 7 of the Gas Act 1986 authorising the conveyance of gas through pipes in respect of the following areas:

Ex-Milford Hotel, Portsmouth Road, Milford, Surrey O/S ref: SU 9517 4229

College Green, Mudford Road, Yeovil Somerset O/S ref: ST 5549 1688

Mark Curran, 15th February 1999

For and on behalf of Southern Electric Pipelines Limited.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AUSTRIA TABAK (UK) LIMITED (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

I, N C Patel of Kramfields, Trinity House, Heather Park Drive, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 1SX hereby given notice that on 9 February 1999 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required, on or before 31 March 1999 to send in their full names and addresses and full particulars of their debts or claims to me and, if so required by notice in writing from me, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated 9th February 1999

N C Patel

LIQUIDATOR

N.B. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full, but if any persons consider they have claims against the company they should send in full details forthwith.

LEGAL NOTICES

WELL-FLOW TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

Registered Number 140213. Trading Name: Well-Flow Technologies Limited. Nature of Business: Supplier of wellbore cleaning materials. Trade Classification: 2413. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 8th February 1999. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: SK Investment Co. Joint Administrative Receivers: P S Dunn & S R Thomas, both of Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF. (Office Holder Nos: 2348 & 1289).

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 WELLFLOW OIL TOOLS LIMITED

Nature of business: Manufacture and lease wellbore cleaning equipment and tooling. Administration Order made: 9th February 1999. Joint Administrators: S R Thomas & P S Dunn both of Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF.

Dated 11th February 1999

TO IAN CORICA, LAWRENCE LEVY, GOLDEN GRACE LTD, AND ADEENA WEISS.

RE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v PATEK PHILLIPE, ET AL.

98 Civ 6641 (LAK), and interpleader action pending in the United States District Court, SDNY. This action concerns a determination of the proper party to which the United States must return two Patek Phillipe watches in its possession. You are hereby notified that THE COURT HAS ORDERED YOU TO APPEAR, PLEAD OR ANSWER THE COMPLAINT BY MARCH 21, 1999 or default judgment will be taken against you and the subject property returned to one or the other competing claimants. You may obtain a copy of the summons and complaint upon written request, made within 7 calendar days of the date of this publication, to Mary Jo White, U.S. Atty, SDNY, 100 Church Street, New York, NY 10007 (Attn: AUSA Colton).

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 CIMEX INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Nature of business: Manufacturers of Industrial Cleaning Equipment. Administration Order made: 8th February 1999. Joint Administrators: S R Thomas and M P Riley both of Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF

Dated 11th February 1999

SOLVERA PLC THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

Registered Number 196908. Nature of Business: Holding Company. Trade Classification: 46. Administration Order Made: 5 February 1999 in the High Court of Justice Chancery Division. Joint Administrators: P Stanley and B Robinson (Office Holder Numbers: 8123 and 2531) both of Begbies Traynor, Elliot House, 151 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3BP

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE:

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Or Email tnl.features@newsint.co.uk

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Frankfurters on a roll



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

London's position to be the financial centre of Europe is under threat. This is not because Britain is outside euroland but because other European cities would like to assume the mantle. Frankfurt, having won the right to play host to the European Central Bank, is keen to welcome other banks. Anyone who believes that Britain's early entry into the single currency would deter the burghers of the city from their concerted effort to supercede London has a mistaken view of life in the European Union.

Within the single market and even within the single currency zone, it is each for himself as countries fight for investment. One glance at the plans for Frankfurt 2000 will reveal how serious the city is in its efforts to woo the international banks. The planners have redrawn the city map to accommodate futuristic new skyscrapers with the vast trading floors that modern banks must have.

The idea, however, is not new: Paul Reichmann got there first. Canary Wharf was ahead of its time when, in 1988, the Canadian developer first started transforming the depressing docklands site into a spectacular adjunct to the City. By the time the company collapsed in 1992, £5 billion had been poured into creating some of the best office space in London and providing the start of the infrastructure to make it workable. The bankers did not share Mr Reichmann's faith in the project, hence they were prepared to sell it back to him for a mere £800 million in 1995. But the demand for the type of floorspace which the Wharf can provide has more than caught up with the developer's expectations. Plans are now ready for the company to begin developing on the remaining two-thirds of the site.

Architects have already been commissioned to produce the designs for completing the development. Even the trees to landscape the extending site have been sourced. In Frankfurt, there may be some comfort in knowing that Britain was unable to provide sufficient numbers of trees of equal size and quality to satisfy Canary Wharf's exacting standards. As happened with the landscaping of the first phase, the trees are being shipped in from Germany.

The tenants will come from Europe and the United States but come they most certainly will. For Canary Wharf has now proved itself and as it expands, with more retailing and leisure accommodation, it will grow in its attractions to tenants. Confidence that that will be the case has encouraged the company to head towards a spring flotation.

Mr Reichmann may have got his sums wrong first time round but his repurchase will prove to have been a bargain. Frankfurt is serious in its challenge but it is pitted against the professionals at Canary Wharf. London will have the properties and the people: that should be enough to keep the Frankfurt challenge at bay. Joining the single currency would not.

FSA blunders into trust charging

Simplistic analysis is always liable to conclude that investment management is a waste of money. Average performance tends to be average, so fees charged by fund managers to pick winners achieve nothing in aggregate. Even the Office of Fair Trading fell into this trap.

The average racehorse may always finish second in a three horse race. That does not stop trainers and jockeys trying to create winners or punters spending time and money to pick them.

A critical study of UK unit trusts by Kevin James, formerly of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, goes well beyond this. It is causing embarrassment mainly because it emanates from the Financial Services Authority, our clone of the SEC.

Most UK unit trusts simply charge more than the equivalent American mutual funds. Deregulation of charges appears to have made things worse, only partly because of the extra admin cost of selling them as Peps.

UK transaction costs are higher. The industry is about to test its own Internet-based electronic trading and settlement system, which should help to shrink the cost gap. Surprisingly, the UK unit trust industry is also more fragmented, lacking any of the economies of scale of America's huge Fidelity (share picking) and Vanguard (index-tracking) groups.

This size gap may help to explain the relatively high up-front charges often levied in the UK. A 5 per cent slice taken off your money before it is invested can play havoc with average returns, especially in the early years. Are 3 per cent selling commissions legitimate any more? At worst, as Mr James highlights, it could take £1.55 to earn the average cost-free returns obtainable from £1. But that begs the question, because there are no cost-free stock market investments, as any private investor can testify.

Fund rules and consumer choice are therefore about balancing cost against any realistic hope of outperformance, either by picking the best-value shares or, more realistically, by the superior strategy of being in the right markets at the right time.

Consumer choice should cover anything from a simple index-tracker to a costly, actively managed emerging market fund. These could be split into products with different charging rules. Better perhaps to insist on a more transparent regime for revealing charges, rather than the present opaque rules, which are geared to complex products such as pensions and life assurance.

Bring the Millar's tale to an end

British Biotech is turning into a slow-motion tragedy. In marimastat, it has a ground-breaking cancer drug that could have been a commercial success — though never on the scale once envisaged. But hubris allowed the previous management — and most of the current non-executive directors — to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Details from a pancreatic cancer trial suggest yesterday's failure will be the first of many. Marimastat showed some encouraging signs of efficacy, though not enough, and only at a high dose. This implies most of the remaining nine trials will not produce the demanding results sought.

This, broadly, is what Andrew Millar was telling his colleagues 18 months, even two years ago. If British Biotech's directors had listened to their director of clinical trials, they could have expanded or amended some studies, making success more likely. This is exactly what Elliot Goldstein has done since taking over as chief executive — though by then it was too late for most of the trials.

Instead of listening, British Biotech ignored, sacked and then sued Dr Millar for disclosing information. Yet so far, his judgments about the trials and the company's previously ludicrous strategy have all been proved right, and the directors wrong. So why is Biotech still fighting Dr Millar, and now the British Medical Association, in court over compensation? Dr Goldstein says he wants to settle, so settle he should.

It figures

THE Office for National Statistics has been in disgrace since its blunder over earnings figures saddled the country with unnecessarily high interest rates. Punishment now looms. The Government asked the chaps at KPMG to take a look at how the workings of the ONS could be improved. The answer was glaringly obvious to them: contract out the work. Statistics show this is often the advice given by major firms of consultants, who then go on to volunteer themselves to do the job.

Mersey Docks lifts its profit to record £47m

By Paul Armstrong

IMPROVED profit margins led Mersey Docks and Harbour Company to a record pre-tax profit of £47.56 million last year.

The result was up from £34.58 million the previous year, though this included a £10 million exceptional loss stemming from the settlement of its long industrial dispute with sacked dockers.

Mersey's earnings were damaged by the BSE impact on animal feed volumes and the loss of oil shipments while Shell's river terminal was being refurbished.

However, these factors were offset by an increase in tonnages of other types of grain and of containers and roll-on, roll-off traffic.

Trevor Furlong, the chief executive, said that the net impact on tonnages was neglible, but that those products that recorded volume growth also carried significantly higher profit margins.



Gordon Waddell, left, chairman, and Trevor Furlong saw Mersey Docks improve its margins

The result was at the top end of analysts' expectations. The shares closed steady at 511p.

An 11p final dividend, up from 10p for the same period in 1997, is due on April 29 and makes a total of 16p, up from 14½p.

Mersey continued to enjoy rapid growth in passenger numbers, with a 54.5 per cent rise, to 581,000, for the year. This was mainly because of the SuperSeaCat service to Dublin, though margins on this business are slim.

Mr Furlong said that earnings growth this year would flow partly from the operation of two extra high-speed freight and passenger vessels from its facilities and a new £35 million fruit coolroom, which starts operating later this month.

He said that Mersey's gearing ratio stood at a comfortable 38 per cent and that the company would fund this year's £40 million capital expenditure from cashflow.

Analysts said Mersey stood to benefit handsomely from investment programmes planned by customers. They were also expecting a sharp rise in earnings from fresh products because of coolroom space, which Mersey has leased out under a 20-year contract.

John Lawson, an analyst with Charterhouse Tilney Securities, has forecast that 1999 pre-tax earnings will reach £52 million. "The core operating business is doing rather well," Mr Lawson said. "They have lost some trade, but it is in low-yielding products."

He said that the market was also pleased to see cash being generated by Mersey's Princes Dock joint venture in Liverpool, which consists of a fully occupied office building and a four-star hotel.

Mersey's proposed terminal development at Trafalgar Dock in Liverpool was postponed while an alternative site at Langton Dock was assessed.

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CCF rises on talk of ING deal

SHARES in CCF, the French bank, yesterday rose by 2 per cent amid speculation that it was close to agreeing a merger with ING, the Dutch bank (Caroline Merrell writes).

According to analysts, CCF, which owns Charterhouse in the UK, has come under increasing pressure to do a deal after the announcement that Paribas and Société Générale plan to merge.

The deal would put a price tag of about £6 billion on CCF. ING, which owns Barings, already holds a 5 per cent stake in CCF.

The share prices of Société Générale and Paribas also rose slightly amid speculation that a consortium of AXA and GE Capital might make a bid for Paribas.

CCF would not comment on the speculation. It reports its 1998 results on Thursday.

Second warning knocks Haden MacLellan price

By Matthew Barbour

SHARES in Haden MacLellan fell more than 25 per cent yesterday after the troubled engineering group gave warning that second-half profits would be significantly below market expectations because of cost over-runs.

The company said that exceptional costs incurred in paint finishing contracts discovered during a recent internal review would lead to a "near break-even" result for the six months to December 31, 1998.

The announcement follows November's warning that a marked slowdown in the automotive industry had led to a delay in contracts for Haden MacLellan's process engineering division. It also had an adverse impact on the group's fastener and industrial services business in the UK.

Before yesterday's warning, consensus forecasts for the second half had been at about the £12.2 million mark. For the six months to June 30, 1998, Haden posted pre-tax profits of £200,000 on turnover of £245.8 million. Full-year results are due in April

The group said that Jeremy Beeton, the director responsible for the paints division, has left the group, and responsibilities temporarily handed to Richard Taylor, the chief executive.

Mr Taylor said that internal control procedures had been improved and subsidiaries made subject to closer scrutiny. Personnel changes are also to be made.

Shares in the company, which reached a high of 160p last May, closed down 13p to 38½p.

Sherwood buyout called off

A PLANNED management buyout of Sherwood Group, the textiles company, has been called off because of problems raising finance (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company said that the managers — led by David Parker, chairman and founder, and Jim Telfer, managing director — had found financial institutions and venture capitalists unwilling to provide backing because of continuing uncertainty in consumer spending in the UK and the rest of the world.

The executive managers of the company, which makes lace, underwear and swimwear, began their buyout attempt last autumn, indicating an offer of 48p a share, valuing the company at £53 million. Yesterday the shares dived 8p to 31p.

Michael to lobby Ford in US

By Adam Jones



Michael: no new incentives

ALUN MICHAEL, the Welsh Secretary, is to lobby Ford at its Detroit headquarters next month to try to help to safeguard the future of its engine factory in Bridgend, South Wales.

Mr Michael will try to persuade Ford that Bridgend should be chosen for more investment above plants in Cologne, Germany, and Valencia, Spain.

Bridgend's main product is the Zetec engine, which is used in several Ford models. It employs about 1,500. Fears for the plant were heightened last autumn, after uncontradicted reports that Ford had chosen to make the engine for the new mini Jaguar in the US, at its factory in Cleveland, Ohio.

However, a forthcoming decision on where to build the successor to the Zetec is seen as being more important to the future of the Bridgend facility. The replacements are unlikely to be built before 2004, union sources have said.

There are fears that a recent flood of Ford money into the Cologne plant means that it will be better placed to be chosen for the vital tranche of future work.

Mr Michael will not be offering Ford any financial incentives to build the new engines in Wales but will emphasise the quality of the workforce and the region's record of attracting investment from the likes of Sony, Panasonic and Toyota.

One union source estimated that a further 500 people depend indirectly on the Bridgend plant for their jobs.

Doug Collins, of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "Bridgend needs a new engine to underwrite its long-term future. Alun Michael's involvement will, hopefully, boost the plant's chances."

Bid hopes boost Greenalls shares

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES of Greenalls, the pub and hotel operator, gained 36½p to 376½p yesterday on hopes of a bid from its bigger rival, Whitbread.

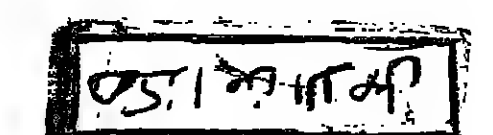
Reports suggest that Whitbread is poised to offer 400p a share, valuing it at £1.19 billion. Neither side would comment, although sources close to Greenalls said the group had received no approach.

Some observers dismissed the report as little more than a reheating of old rumours. But Nigel Popham, of Teather & Greenwood, said: "Strategically, it makes sound sense for Whitbread. It would be strongly earnings enhancing at 450p or more a share." Whitbread shares rose 32p to 885½p.

Mr Popham pointed out that the Greenalls De Vere Hotels chain would fit well with Whitbread's Marriott chain, while its Village Leisure business would boost Whitbread's David Lloyd Leisure arm.

Hopes of a move on Greenalls or Vaux have been fuelled by whispers that Whitbread has called a temporary halt to normal acquisition activity. Analysts believe it may revisit the idea of selling its brewing interests. On Friday Greenalls' latest boardroom recruit, Mark McQuater, will use the annual meeting to outline his plans to shake up the lacklustre pub and restaurant business.

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STOCK MARKET  FRASER NELSON

Havelock joins wonder stocks with 72% surge

HAVELOCK EUROPA became the latest in the new breed of London wonder stocks yesterday as its shares surged 72 per cent for apparently no reason.

Puzzled City dealers were left talking about "private client madness" as the small Scottish shopfitter became the best performer in London.

Its rise was traced back to the directors' share purchases two weeks ago, which were flagged by this Sunday's press. This, dealers said, seemed to trigger a wave of heavy buying by private investors — hungry for another small company to perform a rally such as that staged by **On-Line**, up 1,400 per cent in the past five weeks.

One dealer said: "Weekend tips always move stocks on a Monday, but never by 70 per cent. Normally, we'd hear some takeover rumour but there's been nothing. Private clients have been on the phone all day buying the shares; it's just madness." The shares rose 29p to 69½p.

Hew Balfour, chief executive, said: "Eighty per cent of nothing is not a huge sum. I can think of no other reason than the reaction to the weekend press reports. I think it's truly astonishing."

Conspiracy theorists point to Hermes, the powerful fund manager that now has a 7.3 per cent stake in Havelock.

Although Hermes owns shares in London's 900 largest companies (Havelock ranks 1,574th), it chooses to have discloseable stakes in only 72 — and dealers often see these unfortunate few as takeover targets.

In the absence of Wall Street, which was closed for Presidents Day, there was not much to direct London shares yesterday with few companies reporting. The FTSE 100 managed a cautious 72.5-point rise, closing back over the 6,000 mark at 6023.2.

The tobacco sector was cheered by government assurance that the NHS is legally forbidden from suing cigarette makers. This helped **BAT**, up 18½p to 596p, and **Gallaher**, 8½p ahead at 423p.

Colt Telecom was 57p higher at £11.29, rebounding on its losses of last week. **Boots** was the sharpest blue-chip faller, 33p cheaper at 894p amid broker downgrades.

Most of the action was in smaller company sector,



Hew Balfour, chief executive of Havelock Europa, could offer little explanation for the heavy buying of the shares

where Havelock's rise was followed by 22 other companies whose shares closed more than 10 per cent up.

Austin Reed rose 14½p to 113½p amid rumours of takeover bids — from everyone from its management to Arcadia and Shami Ahmed.

Talk in some dealing rooms is that a venture capitalist is willing and will offer 150p a share in cash if a bid emerges below this level.

Mr Ahmed, the retail entrepreneur behind Joe Bloggs, is now wheeled out as the likely bidder for any troubled retail company — most recently **House of Fraser**, 1½p better at 89½p.

He is now being touted as another potential bidder for **Laura Ashley**, up 2p to 20p amid hopes that Hobbs, the private shoe retailer, will do the honours and take it private.

Tie Rack enjoyed another excellent day, up 8p to 36p, amid talk that Sock Shop has renewed its interest in the niche retailer.

Dealers have been stocking up on shares of **Ferguson International**, the paper and packaging company attempting to split itself up. Word is that, when the company is finished, it will pay out a generous special dividend that makes the shares worth 80p each. They jumped 5p better to 49p yesterday.

British Biotech got off relatively lightly after saying its main cancer drug hope had failed important tests.

The shares lost 17 per cent to 21½p. Dealers who remember it sliding up to the FTSE 100 three years ago are reluctant to believe there is nothing left in the company. Some bear raiders, however, are taking a different view and one is said to have taken a position at 17p a share.

On-Line, the computer games company that has become the most volatile stock in London, was up another 23 per cent at 191p as Clement Chambers, its marketing director, said he is putting £865,000 of the proceeds of his recent share disposals into new shares.

If directors' dealings now command such attention in the market, then expect a sharp drop in shares of **Mitie Group**. It has had a fantastic post-October recovery, the shares adding 80 per cent. David Telling, chairman, thinks this is a good time to take profits and has sold £326,000 of shares at 163p apiece. The shares firmed 3½p to 167½p.

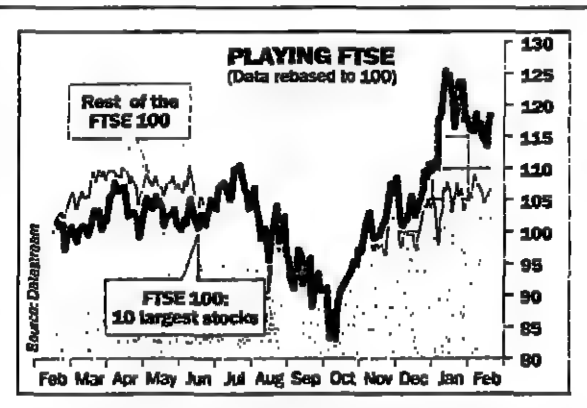
Malcolm Jessop, a non-executive director of **JWE Telecom**, splashed out £11,000 on shares of the company at 158p apiece. They added 5p to 154p yesterday.

Rage Software agreed its long-awaited deal with Microsoft, on terms far less dramatic than some of its fans had hoped for. Its shares were ¾p better at 15¾p, as 13.7 million changed hands.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts closed down slightly after Friday's US treasury losses, but were supported by hopes of low UK inflation and government debt figures due on Tuesday.

Treasury 10 per cent 2001 was £0.10 lighter at £109.77 and Treasury 6 per cent 2028 was £1.04 lower at £125.76.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street was closed for Presidents Day.



THE FTSE 100 has long been used as a bellwether for London shares, but does it give an accurate picture of the market?

Over the past few years, mega-mergers have created huge companies such as BP Amoco, Lloyds TSB and SmithKline Beecham. As the FTSE 100 is a weighted index, the ten largest stocks dictate 38 per cent of its movement. So when the FTSE is at record highs, is this the hard work of the top few covering up for laggards in the rest of the index? The graph shows the ten largest stocks outperforming the rest of the FTSE 100 by 13 per cent.

But they only became the top ten by dint of their good performance.

Investors confining themselves to last February's top ten would have missed out on the 108 per cent rise in Vodafone and an 82 per cent rise in British Telecom.

Still, the big guns have been top of fund managers' shopping list in the recent share upturn. Their outperformance should continue.

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	Closed
S&P Composite	
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14054.72 (+81.03)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9402.39 (-23.03)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	523.31 (-0.02)
Sydney:	
AO	2877.8 (-11.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4879.55 (-9.19)
Singapore:	
Straits	1361.15 (+6.30)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3408.03 (+18.77)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4065.19 (+4.83)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1360.20 (+5.20)
London:	
FT 30	3649.7 (+20.4)
FTSE 100	6023.2 (+72.5)
FTSE 250	5177.2 (-10.5)
FTSE 350	2856.6 (+28.1)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2754.60 (+24.51)
FTSE All-Share	2761.57 (+26.16)
FTSE Non Financials	2815.27 (+21.96)
FTSE Fixed Interest	156.94 (-0.62)
FTSE Govt Secs	114.19 (-0.42)
Bargains	79062
SEAQ Volume	747.4m
US$	1.6277 (-0.0016)
Euro	0.6902 (-0.00221)
£:SDR	1.1745
Exchange Index	100.5 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100	...	
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88	...	
Acorn Income Fund	101½	...	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	98	...	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	120	...	
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	...	
Gander Properties	7¼	+	¼
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	105½	−	¼
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98	...	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ambient Media n/p (49)	¾	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Havelock Euro	69½	+ 29	+ 71.6
Rosebys	95	+ 16½	+ 21.0
Austin Reed	113½	+ 14½	+ 14.6
Friendly Hotels	115	+ 13½	+ 13.3
Albright & Wil	100½	+ 10	+ 11.0
Greenalls Grp	376½	+ 36½	+ 10.7
Atlantic Telecom	134	+ 11½	+ 9.3
Ultra Elect	430	+ 35	+ 8.8
Superscape VR	182	+ 14½	+ 8.6
Unidare(I)	150	+ 10	+ 7.1
Southnews	473½	+ 31	+ 7.0
Helphire Gp	705	+ 45	+ 6.8
App Holo	162½	+ 10	+ 6.5
Comino	235	+ 14	+ 6.3
West Hlthcare	187½	+ 10¾	+ 6.0
COLT Telecom	1129	+ 57	+ 5.3
Pearson	1365	+ 68	+ 5.2
Barclays	1590	+ 74	+ 4.8
Abbey	225	+ 10	+ 4.6
Nat West	1282	+ 55	+ 4.4
Hogg Robinsn	227½	+ 9½	+ 4.3
WPP	492	+ 20	+ 4.2

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Gresham House	21½	− 9	− 29.5
Haden MacLn	39½	− 12	− 23.3
Estates Agency	450	− 100	− 18.1
RJB	65½	− 9	− 12.0
Albemarale & Bd	66½	− 8½	− 11.3
Cohen (A)	105	− 10	− 8.6
Br Borneo	95½	− 8½	− 8.1
AIM	120	− 7½	− 5.8
Jarvis	530	− 31½	− 5.6
Psion	761½	− 43½	− 5.4
MEPC	430	− 24½	− 5.3
Low & Bonar	180	− 10	− 5.2
Assoc Br Ports	265	− 13½	− 4.8
Capital Radio	735	− 34	− 4.4
Air Partner	220	− 10	− 4.3
Berkeley Gp	566½	− 22	− 3.7
Flextech	700½	− 26	− 3.5

TEMPUS

Future still bright

GERMANY'S third-largest mobile phone operator, E-Plus, is looking vulnerable with the "for sale" sign over 40 per cent of its shares. Orange is in pole position to pounce.

The firms enjoy similar histories, but very different fortunes. Both companies launched in spring 1994, and both were late entrants to their respective markets. However, where Orange has sparkled, E-Plus has disappointed, and the German company has only just started to turn itself around.

Orange may not be able to buy control. Otelo — a joint venture between two German utilities, Veba and RWE — owns 60 per cent. But Otelo should welcome the arrival of a successful operating partner. It would be better if Orange could get control of the company's brand, management, and its two million or so customers. But even as a minority it could set up a "virtual network" in Germany by bulk-buying air-time from E-Plus, and re-selling it under its own brand. A similar deal is likely to happen in France, where Orange works closely with Bouygues.

Whichever, the penetration of the mobile phone in Germany is relatively low, giving attractive long-term growth prospects. E-Plus also presents Orange with an entree into the truly global league.

It will cost Orange a lot of money. A 51 per cent stake in E-Plus could cost up to £7.5 billion and the company also needs to find finance for the next generation of mobile-phone licences in this country.

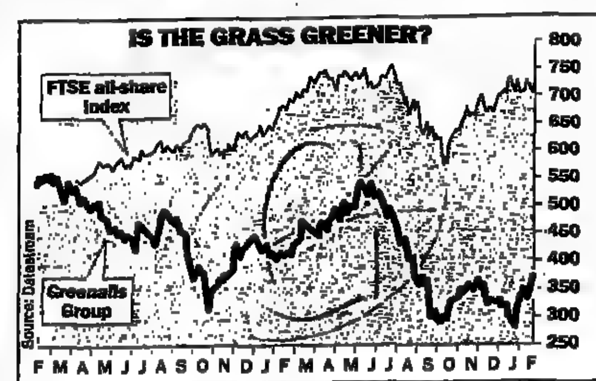
The numbers start to look frightening. But after some retrenchment since last summer Orange shares are looking attractive again at 845p. Buy.

Greenalls

IT IS hard to see what will put the fire back into the Greenalls share price if it is not bid for. The shares have underperformed appallingly for most of the past five years and Friday's annual meeting statement seems unlikely to give much cheer on the trading front. Long gone are the days when Greenalls, as the first major to exit brewing and concentrate solely on pub retailing, was considered to be in the vanguard.

The aura around Greenalls may be a lot worse than is merited, however. Its managed pub concepts lack appeal and the company has been far too lackadaisical in developing the business. But De Vere Hotels — a chain which includes The Belfry, famous for its golf — is envied. The health club hotels side, Village Leisure, is admired and the roadside accommodation lodges are decent enough, too. In addition, the sale of tenanted pubs to Nomura for £370 million last November was well-received.

Best of all, Greenalls is cheap. Prior to the current bid talk, the shares languished at eight times estimated 1998 earnings. Even with the 11 per cent jump yesterday the shares trade at a 50 per cent discount to peers. Whitbread is keeping mum, but it is easy to imagine executive salivation at the prospect of being able to tie up a deal like this. The operations fit well and at £1.2 billion it would be enough to satisfy Whitbread shareholders that it is achieving. Buy Greenalls for the bid. Keep Whitbread as a hold.



Mersey Docks

THERE IS something undeniably 1970s about the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company. The very name reeks of beer and sandwiches and the long-running labour dispute, now settled, only reinforces the prejudices.

Yesterday's annual results from Mersey showed that while the heyday of Britain ruling the waves is past, and while working stevedores no longer dominate the skylines of the country's portside cities, there is still money to be made in shipping and operating ports. Last year the company made operating profits of more than £50 million, and in a weakening economic environment that was a creditable 11 per cent ahead of the previous period.

Mersey's shares, however, look rather moored at 511p. They were unchanged yesterday and, apart from spiking up after settlement of the industrial action, have performed disappointingly for most of the past five years.

Mersey is solid enough but investors seem to be less than convinced that there is exciting growth in the business. There are too many potentially troubling liabilities in branch activities, too.

Mersey shares trade on a prospective p/e of 12. This looks mean given the strength of earnings and the cash-generating abilities but the company will have to be more persuasive about growth if the shares are to perform. They rate an unenthusiastic hold.

Booker

THE enormity of the task facing Stuart Rose, the newish chief executive of Booker, is becoming starkly apparent — and depressing.

The sale he agreed yesterday was relatively small beer. Considering Booker Wholesale Foods made a loss of £1.1 million in the calendar year to last December, some may think it an achivement that Booker managed to strike a cash positive deal. But BWF had sales of £244 million last year, meaning that the disposal price — ignoring the £35 million of asset write-offs — was less than 2 per cent of the segment's turnover. If the whole group was valued at 2 per cent of sales Booker would be worth barely 40p a share, without even allowing for the company's heavy debt position.

Clearly the sale price of BWF cannot be taken as representative of the value of Booker's entirety. But it does underline that Booker's attempts to re-invent itself are proving to be every bit as difficult as the most cynical observers of this company's difficult recent history have imagined. On the market, shares fell to 64½p, down from 72p yesterday.

If Booker survives it will find it hard to prosper. Sell.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	830-833	May	886-[illegible]
May	832-831	Jul	[illegible]
Jul	879-876	Sep	[illegible]
Sep	916-914	Dec	[illegible]
Dec	936-935		
Mar	961-953	Volume: [illegible]	

ROBUSTA COFFEE — [illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB) — [illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION — [illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.30	[illegible]
Brent 15 day (May)	10.40	−0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	10.55	−0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	Closed	
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)		

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery) — [illegible]

IPE FUTURES (Gnl Ltd) — GAS OIL — [illegible]

BRENT — [illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — [illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	72.65	Mar	76.25
May	73.50	May	77.35
Jul	75.65	Sep	75.10
Sep	74.50	Nov	77.35
Nov	76.10	Jan	78.35
Volume: 799		Volume: 4	

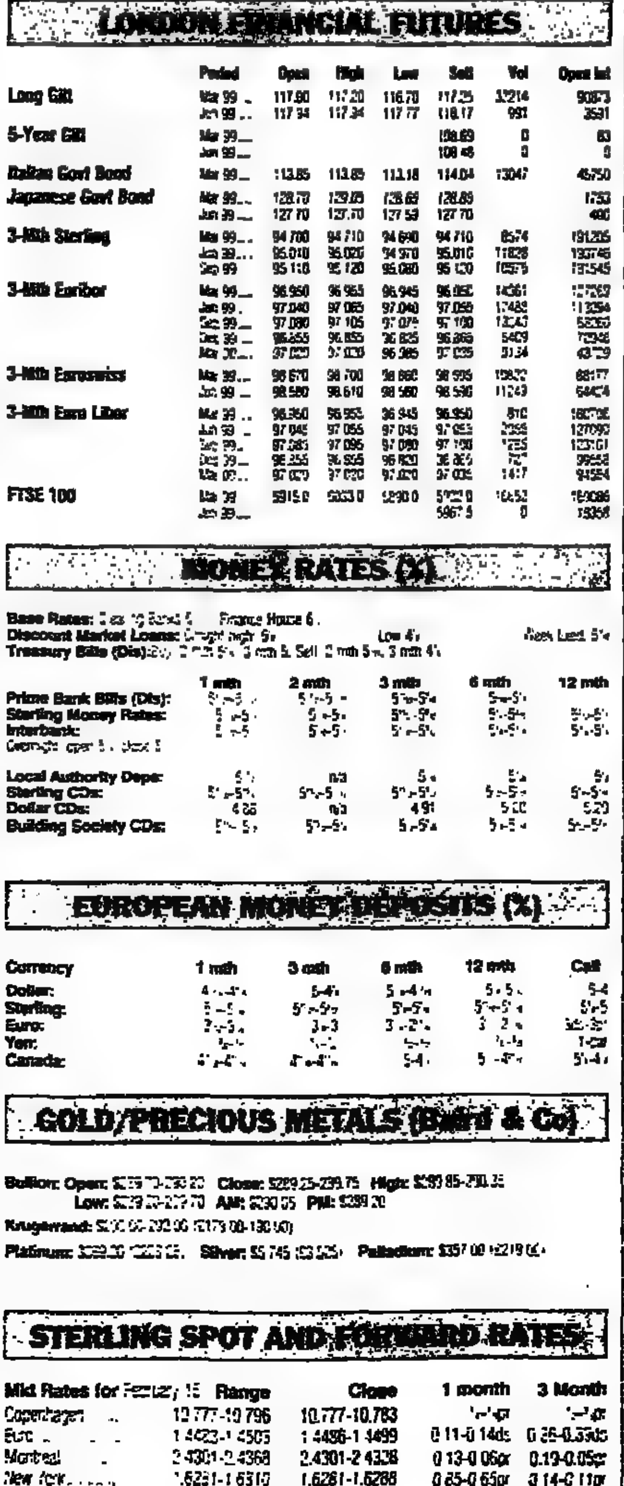
LIFFE POTATO (£/t) — [illegible]

RUBBER — [illegible]

LIFFE BIFFEX — [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	117.80	117.20	116.70	117.25	32214	90873
	Jun 99	117.34	117.34	117.77	118.17	991	3591
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.69	0	63
	Jun 99				108.48	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 99	113.85	113.85	113.18	114.04	13047	45750
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	128.70	129.05	128.65	128.89		1753
	Jun 99	127.70	127.70	127.59	127.70		490
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.700	94.710	94.690	94.710	8574	191205
	Jun 99	95.010	95.020	94.970	95.010	11828	193745
	Sep 99	95.110	95.120	95.080	95.120	10575	131545
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.950	96.965	96.945	96.955	14361	127262
	Jun 99	97.040	97.065	97.040	97.055	17482	113254
	Sep 99	97.080	97.105	97.075	97.100	12243	52350
	Dec 99	96.855	96.855	96.825	96.865	5409	72348
	Mar 00	97.020	97.030	96.985	97.025	3134	43729
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.670	98.700	98.660	98.695	15822	68177
	Jun 99	98.580	98.610	98.560	98.590	11243	64474
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.960	96.955	96.945	96.950	810	180795
	Jun 99	97.045	97.055	97.045	97.055	2355	127090
	Sep 99	97.085	97.095	97.090	97.100	1255	123101
	Dec 99	96.855	96.905	96.820	96.865	727	99552
	Mar 00	97.020	97.020	97.020	97.035	1417	94554
FTSE 100	Mar 99	5915.0	5053.0	5290.0	5722.0	16452	169086
	Jun 99				5967.5	0	15358

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high 5½ Low 4½ Week fixed 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates: Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5½ close 5					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.85	n/a	4.91	5.00	5.20
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	3-3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $289.70-290.20 **Close:** $289.25-289.75 **High:** $289.85-290.35
Low: $289.20-289.70 **AM:** $290.05 **PM:** $289.20
Krugerrand: [illegible]
Platinum: [illegible] **Silver:** $5.745 [illegible] **Palladium:** $357.00 [illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for February 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.777-10.796	10.777-10.783	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4423-1.4505	1.4496-1.4499	0.11-0.14ds	0.35-0.39ds
Montreal	2.4301-2.4368	2.4301-2.4338	0.13-0.06pr	0.19-0.05pr
New York	1.6231-1.6310	1.6261-1.6288	0.85-0.65pr	0.14-0.11pr
Oslo	12.450-12.429	12.450-12.467	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.857-12.932	12.857-12.878	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	159.01-182.60	182.01-188.24	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3145-2.3177	2.3145-2.3165	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5455-1.5467
Canada	1.4920-1.4930
Denmark	6.6160-6.6190
Euro	1.1227-1.1235
Hong Kong	7.7487-7.7497
Japan	115.53-115.63
Malaysia	3.7900-3.8000
Norway	7.6555-7.6655
Singapore	1.6925-1.6940
Sweden	7.8980-7.9080
Switzerland	1.4210-1.4220

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6290-1.6305
Australia dollar	2.5193-2.5228
Bahrain dinar	0.6075-0.6217
Brazil real*	3.08-3.10
Cyprus pound	0.8285-0.8473
Euro	1.4498-1.4521
Finland markka	8.5262-8.6653
Greece drachma	450.00-470.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.6312-12.6405
India rupee	68.43-70.03
Indonesia rupiah	13691.00-14291.00
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4890-0.4994
Malaysia ringgit	6.1762-6.1963
New Zealand dollar	2.9792-2.9837
Pakistan rupee	79.65 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8650-6.0024
Singapore dollar	6.1115-6.1159
S Africa rand (com)	9.9390-10.0278
U A E dirham	5.9175-6.0561

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	518	Land Secs	1,535
ASDA Gp	4,752	Legal & Gn	7,392
Abbey Natl	1,217	Lloyds TSB	12,332
Allied Dom	4,584	Marks Sp	9,261
Assoc Br Fds	[illegible]	Nat Grid	3,500
BAA	[illegible]	Nat Power	9,784
[illegible]			

WALL STREET

[illegible]

ECONOMIC VIEW  ROSEMARY RIGHTER

Tale of two Germanys reaching a conclusion

Confusion rising as nation shows its impatience with Schröder's squabbling Government

As every mother who has watched her child experiment with Plasticine knows, if you take lovely bright primary colours and squidge them up in a ball, the result is brownish sludge. And the most diarrhoeic hue of all is produced by combining the favourite infant colours, red and green.

After four months in office, this nursery metaphor seems to sum up Gerhard Schröder's fumbling red-green coalition. A blurry lump of policies that are neither carefully developed nor collectively backed was not what Germans expected when they voted for his "middle ground". And they certainly did not expect their new Chancellor to compound confusion by acting pig in the middle, not nursery boss.

The voters of Hesse, who deserted the Greens in droves in state elections earlier this month, have already had enough — particularly with the Greens. But for two reasons, the effect of that stinging electoral defeat could be even less coherence than before.

The first is that the children are openly squabbling. Jürgen Trittin, the Green Environment Minister, grumbles that when the Government's agreed policies "have a half-life of just a few hours", it is hard to govern successfully. Herr Schröder retorts that what the coalition needs is "less Trittin" — not surprisingly, as it was uproar over Herr Trittin's economically and environmentally dotty blueprint for scrapping nuclear power that forced Herr Schröder to execute his first U-turn, a clumsy and humiliatingly public manoeuvre. But he cannot so easily slap down Oskar Lafontaine, Finance Minister, leader of the Social Democrats (SPD), kingmaker to Herr Schröder and — as the reward he exacted — boss of EU policy. Red Oskar is letting it be known that he is tired of learning his Chancellor's decisions from newspapers. The rivalry between these two is a canker at the Government's heart.

The second reason to think that confusion may deepen is that the loss of Hesse has deprived the Red-Greens of their majority in the Bundesrat, the upper house whose co-operation is needed for most of the reforms Germany needs to revitalise its economy — and indispensable to overhauling the tax system.

When the G7 hold their informal meeting in Bonn this weekend, therefore, it will be its guests of a Government that has neither experience nor unity of purpose, nor any strategy likely to stop growth slumping to perhaps 1.3 per cent this year or unemployment rising 50,000 above the depression-level current rate of 10.8 per cent. What Bonn does have is unwelcome: plenty of ill-considered ideas, none of them with a ghost's chance of acceptance in Washington and New York, about how to put the world's leading currencies in a straitjacket.


Soft cop, hard cop: Dominique Strauss-Kahn, left, and Oskar Lafontaine often consult

Does this matter? On the face of it, yes, a lot; inchoate leadership of the European Union's dominant economic power must bode ill for sorting out the European Union's future finances and current absurdities (such as its agricultural policy); for hauling EU economies out of the doldrums; for insulating Central Europe from Russia's deepening crisis; and for avoiding damaging trade rows between the US and Europe and acrimonious transatlantic disputes about how best to navigate turbulent international financial waters.

It is the last two items on this list that the G7 will spend most time on. And both at Davos last month, and in subsequent articles penned by Herr Lafontaine and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister whom he consults far more closely than he does Herr Schröder, the lines of an unproductive argument with Washington have been drawn.

The euro seems to have gone to both men's heads. Not content with demanding EU-wide minimum taxes on savings and corporation taxes and an end to the national veto on economic and social policies, they would like to set rules for the euro-dollar exchange rate. They have also set out plans, in a recent joint article in *Le Monde*, for EU "exchange rate regimes with Asia, Latin America and Eastern and Central Europe". The idea is to "make the spirit of the euro rule everywhere" through policy co-ordination.

Herr Lafontaine wants controls on short-term capital flows, and co-ordinated central bank interventions within agreed exchange-rate target zones. M Strauss-Kahn, who plays the soft cop in this double act, says that, while target zones might take time to negotiate, now that Europe is a player on equal footing with the US, it is high time Washington paid proper attention to Euro-11 views on financial management. And one of these views is that the eurozone will not tolerate "benign neglect" of the dollar, or of America's soaring trade and current account deficits.

Oh, really? Who are Germany and France, where growth collapsed to near zero in the last three months of 1998, to give lectures on economic management? The US created 2.9 million jobs last year, combined 3.9 per cent growth with inflation of 1.6 per cent *and*, thanks in part to a tight labour market but also to successes in training workers on the bottom rung that Europeans could profitably learn from, is narrowing the wage gap between unskilled and skilled workers. Why should the Federal Reserve take lessons from the eurozone, or manage the dollar in consensus with the high-cost, low-growth EU? Should the Euro-11 not instead be listening?

The point they most need to take on board was made by the President's Council of Economic Advisers last month: "trade deficits are often associated with strong growth, and surpluses with recessions". In the US, the deficit is not just a function of sluggish European and Asian imports, nor even of Washington's willingness, for which the world should be thankful, to accept that the crisis in emerging markets "has heightened the need to embrace economic openness on a global scale". It is, the council says, "driven by an investment boom". Yes, France and Germany retort, but it has been paid for by foreigners; and when the euro lures back much of that money, the sword of Damocles will fall.

Such mercantilist smugness is misplaced. The US is not just a temporary piggybank for foreigners; their money has poured into acquisitions, mergers and manufacturing, attracted by the strengths of the real US economy. Growth there is still likely to be about 2.6 per cent this year, way above the EU average.

If the US deficit continues its sharp rise, so will the risks of either a protectionist backlash, or a depreciation of the dollar against the euro steep enough to kill whatever shoots are poking out of euroland's permafrost. But the best defence against that eventuality is to boost European demand. It is EU surpluses, not American deficits, that are bad for the world economy. But fiscal stimulus will not work miracles without adding tax, employment and deregulatory reforms, and a bonfire of investment-distorting subsidies.

This brings me to a second, more contentious answer to the question posed earlier: how much does Schröder's drifting matter? In terms of German growth, it depends which Germany you are looking at — the old Germany with its high wages, rigid employment laws and IG Metall; or the new Germany of deregulated telecommunications, the Neuer Markt exchange for small growth companies, a high-tech investment boom and aggressively restructuring market leaders such as Mannesmann, DaimlerChrysler or Bayer.

With this new Germany, Herr Lafontaine appears out of touch. He sees the 11,500 jobs shed by Deutsche Telecom, but not the 40,000 created last year in the same sector, now that competition is possible. And it is because Red Oskar will not part with his beloved "European social model" that he is pinning all blame for Germany's economic woes on the European Central Bank, the constraints of the Stability Pact and the "unfair" competition he seeks to curb by extending the EU's regulatory powers. His tirades against the ECB will hardly reassure Germans that they were right to abandon the mark for the euro; and they are no substitute for domestic reforms.

Because the shackles that bind Germany are home-made, the war that matters is between Germany's increasingly dynamic business culture and its heavily unionised laggards. At Davos, while the Bundesbank's Hans Tietmeyer droned on about political integration underpinned by a new EU "constitution", a bunch of young EU Turks issued a "Wake up, Europe" call. The EU, they said, had had 50 years of harmonisation; what it needed was free-market growth.

Herr Schröder shows few signs, so far, of becoming Germany's deregulatory angel. So it may be a blessing in disguise that his Government is weak. That way, there is just a chance that young Turks will yet scale Germany's socialist ramparts, armed with the example of American success.

Barclays's Teutonic eagle faces the threat of extinction

As Mike O'Neill settles into Barclays's splendid head office on Lombard Street, he will soon find himself having to make one of the most dramatic decisions in the history of the clearing bank — whether or not to kill the Barclays eagle. It might not be the most urgent issue coming up at today's results meeting, but it is something that will surface as Barclays tries to decide how best to attack the retail and corporate markets in a rapidly shifting banking environment.

The issue of the eagle has been swooping around the bank for more than six months. At the heart of the problem is whether or not Barclays wants an integrated brand strategy, and if it does, what should it be. It was an issue to which Martin Taylor, Mr O'Neill's predecessor, devoted a large section of his helicopter brain. And though he had not come to a definitive conclusion before he flew out of the bank, insiders suggest he was in favour of shooting the eagle down in flames.

Such a move would have caused an uproar within the more traditional areas of the bank, who see the Barclays eagle as a link with the bank's great history, stretching back to the founding Quaker families in East Anglia. However, David Stuart, creative director of The Partners, the design agency behind Barclays's b2 brand, argues that it is too Teutonic and institutional, and might put off potential customers who want a more caring sort of brand. "Banks used to try to make themselves look like universities, with imposing buildings and coats of arms," says Mr Stuart. "But now they are trying to present a more personal, quick-thinking image, which says to the customer that they can trust their own instincts."

The threat to the eagle originated at the offices of J Walter Thompson, the advertising agency that handles a large slug of Barclays's retail and corporate work. JWT decided a few months ago to pursue the rather high-risk strategy of trying to persuade Barclays that it needed to integrate and centralise its external marketing work.

Its template was the deal struck by NatWest with GGT — the ad agency that has since become part of the TWBA network. This centralised all NatWest's advertising and direct marketing work with one agency. This apparently means that all of NatWest's external communications — with the exception of public relations and some sponsorship work — will be integrated so, ideally, every piece of the jigsaw should fit together.

The strategy of total integration is popular among financial services companies, but is is not always the best way to go. The integration route is being pursued by HSBC Holdings, which has decided to get rid of all its individual brand names — including such stalwarts of the marketplace as Midland in the UK, Marine Midland in the US and British Bank of the Middle East — and brand everything HSBC. This can cause problems, especially when you kill off well-known names such as Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, which now labours under the title, ABN Amro Securities.


JASON NISSE

Most financial services aspire to this global branding, but egos get in the way, and you end up with a halfway house — such as BancBoston Robertson Stephens, the uncomfortably named specialist broker. Also, most large organisations are unwilling to trust their entire marketing to an external company, so you often have the in-house marketing people trying to juggle five or

MARKET LEADER

six different campaigns in the marketplace.

The other option is to segment the market, and attack it with different brands. Lloyds TSB is an exponent of this, having retained the Cheltenham & Gloucester name for all its mortgage work. It also toyed with the idea of keeping Lloyds and TSB as separate retail banking brands, operating in different segments, but decided this might cause confusion. So it is going for the single brand. Prudential is trying this segmented route, branding its banking business Egg, to differentiate it from the Pru's main offering.

Barclays has been caught between two stools. It launched b2, its savings and investment brand, last year to some cynicism. It has also spent many millions on its Barclays Capital brand, which looks quite different from its old BZW brand. Neither b2 nor Barclays Capital sport an eagle in their logos.

JWT has suggested to Barclays that it needs a bright new image across the group. But should that image have an eagle? JWT is sitting on the fence — after all, if the eagle stays, it could be JWT that goes.

Mr O'Neill is unlikely to have an emotional attachment to the eagle. He has lived through a series of bank mergers in the US, where financial services brands seem to have a life expectancy shorter than a goldfish. However, as Bradford & Bingley found when it thought of getting rid of the bowler hats from its logo, it often pays not to be too radical.

David Stuart predicts Barclays might follow the lead of the German Government, which has asked Sir Norman Foster to redesign its eagle, though the Germans are concerned that the result is a little too fat to fly. Expect a less Prussian, more American eagle to emerge from Lombard Street in the near future.

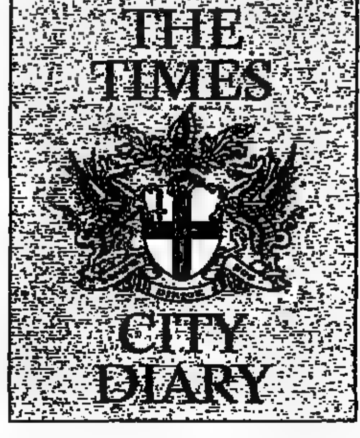
jason.nisse@the-times.co.uk

SPORTSPHOTO



Wings clipped: Barclays's symbol is seen as too institutional

The cable guy



THERE are signs that one of the empty seats at the top of some of our biggest companies may be about to be filled. Shares in Cable & Wireless fell off a cliff in December when Dick Brown quit without warning to run EDS, the huge US computer concern founded by Ross Perot.

Brown, himself an American, resurfaced last week with a $17 billion deal. Now I am told on good authority that the powers that be at C&W have decided to minimise disruption by making it an internal appointment rather than bringing in an outsider to turn everything on its head again. (And then, perhaps, be lured away by mega-bucks elsewhere. Brown's departure has left some people rather bitter, I gather.)

So the race is on between Graham Wallace, who runs CWC, the smaller cable company spun off from C&W, and Robert Lerwill, C&W's finance director. If, as I expect, the job goes internally, Wallace would be the obvious favourite, having experience in running the company. But I would not write off Lerwill yet.


Brown: quit without warning

I SEE from the Reuters weekly diary that the Turkey European Roadshow reached London yesterday. There was a presentation at noon — and where else but at Butcher's Hall?

Dirty laundry

IF YOU have a large sum of illicit cash in need of laundering, try building a dam or a road somewhere in the developing world. I have been taking advice on the subject from one of our best authorities on the subject.

Nigel Morris-Cotterill, an occasional visitor to this column, says the easiest way to launder cash today is through an international private finance project. "A lot of the money that goes into projects like these is syndicated, often through banks from the Indian sub-continent or the Middle East," he says. There is virtually no way of checking where the money comes from.

Morris-Cotterill, who claims that the war against organised crime is already lost in most countries, is awaiting publication of the second edition of his book, *How not to be a money launderer*.

He says the only people affected by fruitless efforts to crack down on the practice are the general public. For example, there is a duty to report any suspicions to the police, penalty for non-compliance is four years inside.

We are also subject to rigorous identity checks when taking out insurance policies and so on. For criminals, a fake identity can be bought for a couple of hundred pounds.

BARCLAYS reports its figures today and will be questioned about the £250 million the bank managed to lose as a result of the Russian debt default last summer. This was a one-off event, the first such by a sovereign power since 1947, but no one has ever successfully explained how Barclays got it so wrong.

There is a story doing the rounds of banking circles that tries to do so. The decision to take the ill-fated position came from the capital markets committee alone, without advice from any of the in-house Russian experts.

This might fit with what we know of the nature of Bob Diamond, the Barclays Capital boss, but it is unlikely to be the version of events on offer from Barclays today. The bank was quite rightly refusing to comment last night. But analysts present might like to ask for a list of Barclays's Russian experts last summer who might have been consulted, and just where they are now.

Derailed

A MATE rings. He was in a second-class compartment on the London to Norwich express on Friday night when someone next to him pulled out the contents of a larger briefcase and set to work.

My friend had a look. You would, wouldn't you? The documents were addressed to Tony Habgood, non-executive director of PowerGen, and related to a meeting of the company's remuneration committee tomorrow.

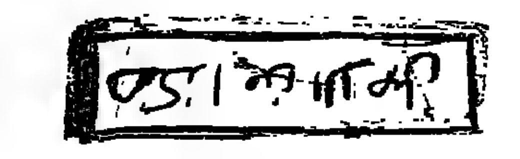
Further than that I will not say. But he is a PowerGen non-exec and the meeting is indeed tomorrow. I rang Habgood to check a) whether it was his double/mistaken identity, and b) why on earth, if you must transact such highly sensitive business, you don't at least upgrade to first class.

"Ha, ha, ha. I don't think I've any comment on that," he replies. Long pause. "I'm trying to remember where the hell I was on Friday." A truly yawning pause. "Yup. I've no comment on that."

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



"I told you Dad not to touch drugs"



	Sell	Buy	+/–	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	143.72	158.19	– 0.30	..
-do- NAV to Jun 19	140.39	140.39		..
UK Equity Safeguard	116.81	124.08	+ 0.21	2.92
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98		
US Eqy Safeguard	97.50	103.65		
Cash	852.00	956.76†		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	435.96	454.21	– 1.81	1.80
UK Small Cos	88.74	94.90	+ 0.45	0.90
FTSE 250 Index	104.45	111.71	– 0.52	1.88
Gemini UK Index	#23,370	#24,575	– 0.40	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.36	91.32	– 0.31	6.68
Monthly Inc	44.23	47.31†	– 0.16	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	365.71	386.81	– 7.99	0.17
American Strat	173.73	185.28	– 4.99	
JG US Index	#29,339	#30,911		4.50
European Gen	432.24	458.45	– 7.12	
European Strat	213.42	228.35	– 1.89	
Japan Gen	106.61	112.81	+ 0.72	
Asia Pacific	61.45	65.54	+ 0.02	1.09
Pacific Strat	84.75	92.64†	+ 0.09	
Greater China	141.33	151.15	– 1.17	
Latin America	56.88	60.83	– 0.14	...
Intl Growth	195.37	208.87	– 2.91	0.11
Balanced Exempt	182.71	189.33	...	2.18
Global Strategy	47.55	50.86	– 0.29	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	82.96	88.28	+ 0.08	1.72
Balanced Inc	74.55	79.31	+ 0.08	1.72
Brit Excell	131.70	140.10	+ 1.88	2.27
Brit Fedelitis Acc	169.20	180.00	+ 0.50	3.95
Brit Fedelitis Inc	104.90	111.60	+ 0.40	3.95
Europe	562.40	598.39	– 1.00	0.30
[illegible]				

	Sell	Buy	+/–	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	317.60	336.00†	[illegible]	
-do- Income Dist	174.40	184.80		
-do- Accum	600.40	636.40		
Gilt & Fxd Int	48.15	50.60†		
Growth Units	382.30	407.70		
Bond	210.60	221.90		
Intl Growth	274.70	291.50		
North American	421.70	447.30		
Far East	167.90	179.80		
UK Smaller Cos	271.70	290.60		
European	141.20	150.10		
Japanese Growth	29.20	30.93		
High Income	304.90	325.60		
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0181 831 7493 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg [illegible]				
American & Gen	365.70	386.70		
European Inc	154.45	163.90		
Smaller Cos (4-1)	112.40	119.60		
Growth	758.20	798.10		
Income & Growth #	584.30	621.60†		
-do- Accum #	968.30	1030.20		
Japan & Gen	52.12	55.08		
Hallmark Gwth	1732.00	1805.00†		
-do- Accum	2208.00	2298.00		
Special Sits	173.80	184.10†		
High Yield	1923.00	1983.00		
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	125.36	133.33†		
American Portfolio	201.00	213.24		
European Portfolio	221.99	235.85		
High Income	59.77	63.08†		
Japanese Portfolio	47.76	50.58†		
Pacific Portfolio	163.58	111.30		
UK Equity	124.31	132.71		
UK Equity & Bd	73.07	77.41		
[illegible]				

[illegible]

[illegible]

Narrow fall for gilts

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

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RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

Centre for best practice could straighten twisted economics

Author of *The New NHS Charter, A Different Approach*, GREG DYKE, on how a relatively small cash injection would bring huge improvements in efficiency

The biggest adjustment anyone from the private sector has to make when confronted with the National Health Service is to understand how different the economics of the NHS are compared with those in their normal business life. At its most basic it means understanding that a service which is free at the point of delivery defies the economic logic that drives virtually all commercial organisations.

This was explained to me in very blunt terms early on in my wanderings around the NHS by one doctor who asked me what I was hoping to achieve with the report I was producing. I told him the hope was to come up with some recommendations which, if implemented, would improve the experience for the patient. "Why do you want to do that?" he replied. "If you improve the experience we just get more patients, and we can't cope with any more."

This doctor was not being entirely serious, but his point was an important one. Most commercial organisations have an economic incentive to improve the speed and efficiency of the service they deliver to their customers — often in the health service the opposite applies. This doesn't mean that people working in the NHS do not strive to improve the quality of the service they deliver — they do all the time — but at times they are doing it despite the economic effects, not because of them.

For example, one of the issues it was suggested I address when I was asked to come up with proposals for a new NHS Charter was to question why so many people failed to turn up for hospital appointments — 12 per cent, according to official figures, costing the health service some £200 million a year (and that does not include the cost of consultants' lost time).

Was this an issue of "patient irresponsibility", as is widely believed within the health service, or was there another cause? I rapidly discovered that it was the latter and this high "don't show" rate was much more to do with inadequate communication systems than it was to do with patients wilfully refusing to turn up.

At two NHS trusts I visited they had introduced pilot projects to try to beat this problem, and in both cases they succeeded by improving their means of communication with the patients. At Bassetlaw District General Hospital in Worksop they reduced the numbers not turning up from 10 per cent to just 3 per cent simply by introducing a well-written, well-presented appointment letter and a system in which people were telephoned out of office hours, reminded about the appointment and asked if they were coming. Hardly rocket science, but it worked.

Rotherham General Hospital Trust adopted a more sophisticated approach and handed their appointments system over to the Royal Mail, which redesigned the appointment letter to make it more user-friendly, included a reply slip and — as in Bassetlaw — phoned people they hadn't heard from. They reduced the "don't show" rate from 11 per cent to 4 per cent.

Despite both pilot projects being successful, neither trust continued with them; both were scrapped for financial reasons. In the case of Bassetlaw, the trust estimated that it would have saved them £350,000 if they had introduced the system to the whole trust and it would have cost only £40,000 to employ the three extra clinic clerks needed to do it.

On the face of it the decision to spend the £40,000 was an easy one if it saved £350,000 a year. The problem was that the two currencies were different. The £350,000 was not real money — it was £350,000-worth of improvements to the effectiveness of the system — while the £40,000 was real extra cash and the trust simply didn't have the money.

In both cases the trusts ran up against the NHS version of Catch-22 — improved efficiency might mean a more effective trust able to deal with more patients and reduce waiting lists, but it doesn't necessarily save real cash or bring in enough new cash to pay for introducing the efficiencies in the first place.

It is inconceivable that a private sector organisation would make the same decision, but then improving the quality and efficiency of the service in most market-based organisations usually leads to an increase in revenue which more than pays for the cost of introducing the changes. Even when they do not, the organisation has little choice if its competitors are striving to make themselves more efficient.

I found the same economic conundrum when looking at another major issue within the NHS: the failure of different parts of the organisation to exchange information about best practice and to learn from each other. Commercial organisations have an economic incentive to introduce best practice: if they do not and their competitors do, it makes them less competitive and potentially uneconomic. This is not true of the NHS, where the failure of different parts of the organisation to share best practice is legendary.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE NHS

Again in my wanderings around the health service I spent time at two trusts where they had introduced basic re-engineering projects. At both — the South Tees Acute Hospitals Trust and the Leicester Royal Infirmary — they had re-examined their systems and, with the help of staff and patients, fundamentally redesigned them. The results were remarkable. In the Colposcopy clinic in South Tees the time the average patient spent with the consultant was increased by 50 per cent; the number of patients not turning up was halved; waiting time for a first appointment was reduced from 18 weeks to two; and the time taken for a follow-up appointment dropped from 13 days to 48 hours.

On top of that, an unexpected result was that with the improved efficiencies the number of clinics needed to meet demand was reduced by 50 per cent. As a result, one of the specialists involved was able to devote more time to another clinical area. Overall, the trust saved some £60,000 a year, which it was able to use to improve service elsewhere.

At Leicester, the trust tried re-engineering in a number of areas and had great successes in two. In gastroenterology a 20-week waiting period for test results was compressed into less than four hours and an average of three appointments per patient was reduced to one. As a result, waiting lists were considerably reduced.

In the second area, patient surveys had revealed that outpatients waiting for a long period of time for test results were suffering from a great deal of anxiety — and 80 per cent of these were for simple blood tests, X-rays and ECG tests. Again a re-engineering process produced remarkable results. Instead of the patient waiting 79 hours, walking 650 paces around the hospital and undressing three times it was now possible for patients to receive test results in 36 minutes, walk only 90 paces and undress once. The changes also saved the trust a total of £25,000 a year.

With results like these you would think trusts would be desperate to learn what was being achieved elsewhere and replicate it. Sadly, this is not the case. At Leicester they even set up a Centre for Best Practice, with the task of advising others how to follow their lead, but they had virtually no takers from within the NHS. Again, it is inconceivable that private sector organisations would behave in this way. In the competitive age in which we live they cannot afford to fall far behind the competition.

This is not an argument for privatising the NHS or ending the system in which medical care is obtained free at the point of delivery — that is one of the great achievements of Britain in the postwar period and is rightly recognised as such both inside the country and around the world. What it does show, however, is that we need to appreciate how our system of health delivery distorts rational economic decision-making and make adjustments for it. The internal market system introduced by the last Government was an attempt to do precisely that, but it was not "sold" to the staff of the NHS and as a result was desperately unpopular. There are also doubts whether trying to introduce as crude a market mechanism as that would have worked in an organisation like the NHS in any case — it certainly didn't encourage the sharing of best practice in the years in which it operated.

What the examples I have described show — and I have no doubt there are many more around the NHS — is that there are ways of greatly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of parts of the NHS without spending vast amounts of new money. However, some new money is needed to make these changes. This, in itself, is counter cultural to the prevailing view in the world of health, which argues that only by throwing vast sums at a problem can it be solved.

I would argue that while the system may be under-resourced that does not mean that a lot of time and energy should not be spent analysing whether there are ways of using existing resources more effectively. The examples I have outlined show that there are, but they still carry a real cost. However, for comparatively small sums — such as the £40,000 at Bassetlaw — significant advances in both efficiency and effectiveness can be achieved.

My proposal to facilitate this is for the Government to allocate some of the extra money it has committed to spend on the NHS to a newly established National Centre for Best Practice, which will distribute the extra cash to parts of the NHS which bid for the money and can demonstrate the scale of the efficiency savings they hope to make. Of course, how this money was actually spent and what efficiencies had been made would have to be monitored by the Centre for Best Practice.

Politically, this is attractive because at the end of a three or four-year period the Government should be able to say we spent, say, an extra £2 billion but gained £10 billion in service improvements. In this way the Government could demonstrate that it had modernised the NHS.

In terms of the sharing of best practice I believe trusts would very rapidly learn about new ideas and developments being practised elsewhere if they thought it meant that they could get new money to implement them and improve their service.

Of course there would still be some trusts which would lag behind, but I suspect it would not be long before they were being questioned about their failure to attract their share of this new money and their failure to modernise their particular part of the NHS.

Greg Dyke is chairman and chief executive of Pearson TV.


Re-engineering the processing of X-rays and various test results was shown to bring remarkable improvements to efficiency along with sizeable financial savings

Smart money backs pair of inventors

By Rodney Hobson

A MAN who blow-torches his hand and another who monitors back pains with a matchbox-sized device are the first two entrepreneurs to raise funds through a scheme to help inventors in the South of England.

They have been backed with a total of £84,000 after help from Hampshire's Virtual Company scheme launched last year. The service is funded by Business Link Hampshire and run by South East Hampshire Enterprise Agencies. The Business Link is offering to talk to other organisations to extend the idea to other areas.

Mike Keenan, a painter and decorator based in Curdridge, near Southampton, has been awarded £45,000 through the DTI's Smart scheme, which helps with the development of inventions that have good commercial prospects. He was painting at a power station when he discovered by chance a material that would not burn. Mr Keenan has no degree and no scientific training but his discovery led him to spend ten years developing fire-resistant materials. His formulae protect substances that would not normally be protectable from fire, such as polystyrene and canvas.

He won the award after putting on a demonstration in front of 50 government scientists. He used his treatment on paper, cloth, plastic resin and wood and subjected them to the heat of a blow-torch. As a finale he plunged his hand into a bucket of his own formulation grease and held the blow torch within half an inch of it.

Paul Bracchi, an engineer from Winchester, has won a Smart award of £39,000 for his Orthosense posture monitoring system. It could help more than 300,000 back pain sufferers in this country.

Orthosense is a matchbox-sized monitor worn by the patient to record information on posture over seven to ten days. The data is downloaded on to a computer and analysed by a physiotherapist who can advise on improving posture and suitable exercises. The device can be programmed to emit a warning bleep if the wearer adopts a damaging posture.

The Virtual Company scheme aims to bridge the gap between inventors and investors, turning incredible ideas into credible businesses. It creates around the inventor a team of individuals with complementary skills who work unpaid to test and develop an idea, produce a prototype and take it forward to a full business plan. Joint ventures or limited companies can be formed by the participants once financial backing is secured.

In the first year the Virtual Company scheme has considered a total of 90 promising ideas and selected 15 for further development.

Experts on call

UNIVERSITY expertise will be made available to small businesses in Wales from April 1 under the Welsh Office's Know-How Initiative (Iola Smith writes).

Business Connect, the one-stop advice shop for small businesses in Wales is recruiting five technologists as co-ordinators putting companies into contact with appropriate university departments. The co-ordinators will work alongside industrial liaison officers at the universities.

Further strengthening of ties between industry and education will see the number of modern apprenticeships in Wales increased to 14,000 by 2002.

Business Connect can be contacted on 0345 969798.



On a wing and a prayer: Sophie Hamilton shrugged off sceptical friends and her lack of business experience to launch Little Wings

Dressmaker's fairytale start

Jennai Cox meets a woman who has turned a childhood fantasy into a lucrative niche business

Sophie Hamilton believes in fairies. What she finds much harder to believe is that her business making fairy dresses is set to break even in its first six months of trading.

While Christmas shopping two years ago for her five-year-old god-daughter, Miss Hamilton was struck by the lack of choice in such outfits for little girls. She was so taken by her god-daughter's reaction when she did manage to buy a fairy dress that she wondered if she had found a niche market that was not being properly served.

"I was amazed at how this little girl was transformed," she says. "She loved the dress and got completely carried away. She thought she could fly."

Having traipsed through all the obvious outlets, including Harrods, Hamleys, John Lewis and the Disney Store, looking for other fairy outfits, Miss Hamilton felt sure there was a gap in the market that she was particularly well suited to fill. Combined with a childhood love of fairies was a desire to work in the clothing industry. "I love colours, textures and beauty," she says. "There was nothing else I really wanted to do."

After leaving school at 18, Miss Hamilton worked for Givenchy in Paris for 18 months as an assistant to the accessories designer, staying on in France for a further year to work for Christie's and complete a foundation course in sculpture. Already contemplating a career involving children, Miss Hamilton studied psychotherapy on her return to the UK. At the same time, she helped at an after-school drama group before deciding last summer to give her fairy outfits idea a try.

Despite her lack of business experience and various concerned comments from friends about the eccentricity of her idea, Miss Hamilton secured a bank loan and started work with a costume designer friend, Sophie Bowlby, on dress designs and patterns.

Buying materials such as crystal organza and netting in London for what was then planned only as a pilot project, she found a factory in the City to manufacture the dresses. Three weeks before the official launch of Little Wings, the manufacturer admitted it could not guarantee delivery. "It was awful. I told them it wasn't good enough and took everything back," she says. In the nick of time a company in Birmingham agreed to stitch the dresses together before sending them back to London for the beading to be sewn on by hand.

The mail-order catalogue put together in November features four different fairy dress designs from £50 to £115, plus wings, wands and slippers for children from three to six years old. So far Miss Hamilton has had to resist a number of individual commissions and a demand for adult versions.

She sold more than 100 dresses in the six weeks before Christmas and expects to be in profit from an estimated £15,000 first-year turnover. She has become used to being her own boss and is starting to think about longer-term plans for the business.

She is planning to make the next range of dresses more colourful, and in March is visiting a large store in New York which has expressed interest in selling the dresses. Demand from the US has proved so great that a website from which the dresses can be viewed and ordered is also being set up.

In the long term, Miss Hamilton would like to run some sort of fairy shop, old-fashioned and surrounded with an aura of magic welcoming all children. "I really believe children lack the space and time to use their imaginations today," she says, "and this could be a creative place where they could come and do just that."

Although the company looks set to grow, Miss Hamilton is still reeling from the surprise of its success. "The strange thing is that when I started I never really thought about making money. I wanted to succeed but I began it because it was something I believed in and my heart is there."

☐ *Little Wings can be contacted by telephone or fax on 0171-243 3840.*

BRIEFINGS

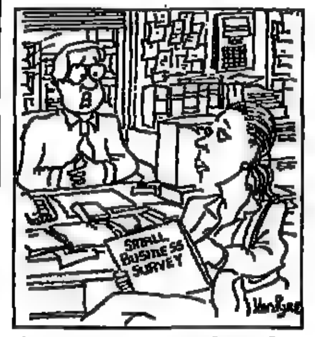
No growth was recorded in the number of small businesses in the last quarter of 1998, the first zero growth in two years, figures from Barclays Bank show. Closures and start-ups were equal at about 110,000. The whole year saw an increase of 36,000 businesses to 2.65 million. Alastair Camp, of Barclays small business banking, said: "The last three months gave the first clear indication that the economic slowdown is seeping through to the small business sector."

☐ BDO Stoy Hayward, the chartered accountancy firm, has launched a competition for student entrepreneurs with a prize of £1,000 cash and £4,000 worth of professional advice. It is open to groups of up to four students who have an idea for a start-up business. Information from 0171-893 2167.

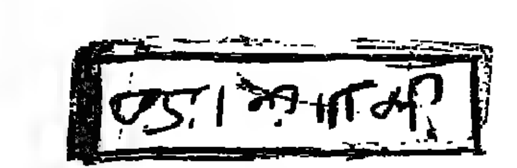
☐ Abbey National's business and professional banking service, launched last year with the promise of free banking until the end of this year, has extended the free service for a year. Businesses operating within certain transaction limits will bank free indefinitely. The service is designed for business people who run their accounts in credit and bank by post or telephone.

☐ A specialist Internet shop supplying standard documents to help small businesses to run routine legal affairs has been established by Briffa & Co, intellectual property lawyers. The site is *www.briffa.com*.

☐ Dun & Bradstreet, the business information provider, has launched its WorldBase Marketing File, a one-stop shop giving information on more than 25 million companies. Details from 01494 422299.



"No, I've not experienced a downturn in confidence — I never had any to start with!"



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HERE'S TO THE FUTURE

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It is not only the best salaries that you find at the London office of a top US firm like this one - it is also the best lawyers and best mainstream international corporate tax and structured finance work, all of which will combine to get the career of tax lawyers with 0-4 years' pqe off to a flier. Ref T40826

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL — To £500,000
This medium to large City firm is such a strong and confident practice that it has no need for mergers or bulking up just for the sake of it. But heavyhitting company/commercial partners will find a thriving home for their practices and the freedom to exploit and profit from their potential. Ref T5379

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This huge US firm's London office showcases all that is good about New York practices: fantastic work for corporate finance or banking lawyers with 0-6 years' pqe, augmented by US-size salaries and a genuine commitment to making you the best. It would be hard to find a better move. Ref T23690

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CORPORATE INSURANCE — To £60,000
This top 10 City firm's high-profile and fast-growing corporate insurance team is a top place to be, as its work on many of the big-ticket insurance deals puts its lawyers high on the list for promotion and partnership. Lawyers with 1-4 years' pqe should jump at the chance to share in the success. Ref T61747

SHIPPING LITIGATION — To £65,000
Your boat will have well and truly come in if you climb aboard this top 10 City firm, whose reputation in shipping work around the world is second-to-none. Shipping litigators with 2-5 years' pqe will have their pick of the best work available at a firm that truly values its lawyers. Ref T61697

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY — To £61,000
Even if this top 10 City firm was not ranked as one of the best commercial property firms around, most lawyers with 1-4 years' pqe would jump at the chance to try all parts of its broad practice and learn alongside top practitioners. Includes banking and corporate support, and projects work. Ref T61472

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PROJECT FINANCE — To £85,000
Quite simply, this top 5 US firm has arguably the best projects practice in the world, and project finance lawyers with 0-4 years' pqe who join its London office will see their know-how, careers and salaries go into orbit. Compared to this opening, almost everything else will seem second-rate. Ref T8511

CORPORATE KNOW-HOW — To £Flexible
Your 5+ years' corporate finance pqe needs to be good to become this top US firm's professional support lawyer, as its London office is one of the top payers in the market and will pay you a full lawyer rate, even though you will work set hours and may even be able to take the role part-time. Ref T61736

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6:30 pm, The Law Society,
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CORPORATE LAWYER

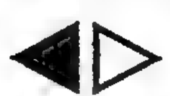
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LAW

THE 1999 WOMAN LAWYER FORUM

Flexi lawyers dream of a lifestyle practice

Frances Gibb on a bold plan to modernise the way legal firms operate



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Family firm: Jennie Wade and her children, with colleagues Michael Jones (centre) and David Warner

The dream law practice for the millennium would be family-friendly, offer flexihours, be high-tech and non-hierarchical — and that's just for a start. A far cry, in other words, from the traditional solicitors' firm or set of barristers' chambers.

This month three lawyers are launching such a practice in London. Fed up with the profession's long-hours culture and narrow career paths, David Warner, Michael Jones and Jennie Wade are pioneering what they hope will be the model way of working in the law in future.

The aims of Jones & Warner, which will operate from Lombard Street as a niche employment law practice catering to top companies, coincide neatly with the themes of this year's **Woman Lawyer Forum**, sponsored by *The Times*.

The forum on May 15 (see right and coupon below) will debate "changing the way we work" at a time when many younger lawyers are starting to resent the long hours expected in practice.

Ms Wade is one of them. She is a mother of two children under the age of three, so the new firm is ideally timed. Working as a partner, she will do flexible hours over two days, with some work from home. "It is becoming harder for both men and women to counter the total immersion syndrome," she says. "You have to be at your desk 16 hours a day because more and more people are doing it.

"At present, women may be doing well in a firm, then take some time off to have children. But they are not helped to come back. Or they fear taking time off at all and come back as quickly as possible, full-time, to achieve their career goal."

The idea grew from a blueprint for a modern legal practice. Mr Jones, for 20 years a commercial barrister at One Essex Court, says: "It started as a philosophical discussion about how law firms could and should organise themselves in the modern age."

Both he and Mr Warner already knew each other from Warner Cranston, the City law firm that Mr Warner founded in 1979 and built into to a highly regarded practice with 20 partners and 130 staff.

He became senior partner, but at 50 wanted a change. Mr Jones, had left the firm to join the Warner Cranston firm as a litigation partner, to found the firm's advocacy department. "I was very surprised by how hierarchical the solicitors' profession was. People expect to work hard, to become a partner way down the line but with few rewards on the way — the assistant solicitors were undervalued and not expected to participate."

After brainstorming, they came up with several factors they did not like: the long haul to partnership, the emphasis on targets that solicitors must achieve in terms of billing, the lack of flexibility for part-timers and generally the "total immersion culture".

The firm will break new ground in several ways: in employing barristers, solicitors and using other professionals such as human resource experts, to create a "one-stop shop" in employment law. It hopes to expand up to 27 partners, becoming the largest specialist employment practice in the country.

The area of law fits well with its philosophy of catering to what it calls "lifestylers": lawyers who want to work in new ways and who in large numbers are being lost to the profession at present. Mr Warner says: "Women with children, those looking after relatives, people wanting career breaks or combining academic work with live law . . . a well-run legal practice should accommodate all these."

What happens when the lawyer handling a case is not there? One answer is a rota: clients will be served by a team of lawyers and know all members, one of whom will always be on duty. Lawyers will also all have home work stations, complete with modems and mobile phones at their disposal.

The firm will break with usual remuneration methods. There will be salaries, plus bonuses and incentives, with people given 10 per cent commission for work introduced. A quarter of all profits go to a bonus pool to be split among everyone.

At first, it will be a partnership; but in a few years' time it sees itself and other law firms becoming incorporated. "Economically," Mr Warner says, "we are run as a company — with the shareholders, directors and employees getting the rewards."

Some may say it sounds too good to be true. But if it works, then Jones & Warner will have cut a path that others will be rushing to follow.

Cherie Booth, QC



Cheryl Carolus



Kamlesh Bahl



Baroness Jay

Women must make a difference at the top

Why a new equality deal is still needed

Why have a woman lawyers' forum — women have made it now, haven't they? The comment came, perhaps unsurprisingly, from a man. And it is true that women now account for half the annual entrants to the legal profession. But despite its changing landscape, the profession remains a masculine one, argues Clare McGlynn.

In her new book, *Woman Lawyer — making the difference*, Ms McGlynn, a law lecturer at Newcastle University, highlights the need for fundamental reform in the organisation of the profession if women are to play their full role as lawyers and judges.

The statistics tell the story: women are still not represented in the senior judiciary (there is only one woman in the Court of Appeal); and women account for only 12 per cent of Queen's Counsel. There has not been a woman leader of the Law Society; only 16 per cent of women are partners in law firms; and the average earnings of women solicitors are lower than those of men.

Partly the reason is historical, reflecting the smaller pool of women available to promote to senior positions. But it is also the way the profession is structured; the inbuilt obstacles in its working practices, particularly where women want to combine work and a career. This bigger picture is the target of this year's Woman Lawyer Forum on May 15. The theme is mainstreaming, an ugly but apt word. The forum, launched five years ago by Margaret McCabe, a barrister, is now a mainstream event, sponsored by the Law Society and the Bar and central to the profession's policy-making debates.

Kamlesh Bahl, one of the speakers and Law Society deputy vice-president, says: "Mainstreaming is about a new approach, about building equality into policies from the start into every aspect of employment. Every decision taken should be looked at from this angle — will it impact adversely on women or any other group?"

Women may be spearheading this approach, but it applies equally to any other group who might face discrimination. It is not, she argues, the old-style battle for women's rights but about changing attitudes to equality across society.

This year's programme has a star-studded line-up, including Baroness Jay of Paddington, Minister for Women, who is giving a keynote speech; Cherie Booth, QC; Mrs Justice Hale; Cheryl Carolus, the South African High Commissioner to London; Janet Gaymer, head of employment at Simmons & Simmons; Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws; and Professor Judith Resnik, Professor of Law at Yale.

There will be open-forum sessions and eight different workshops on themes from changing the way we work to management and leadership skills, client-getting, violence against women and, for the first time at a mainstream event, a session on sexual harassment in the workplace.

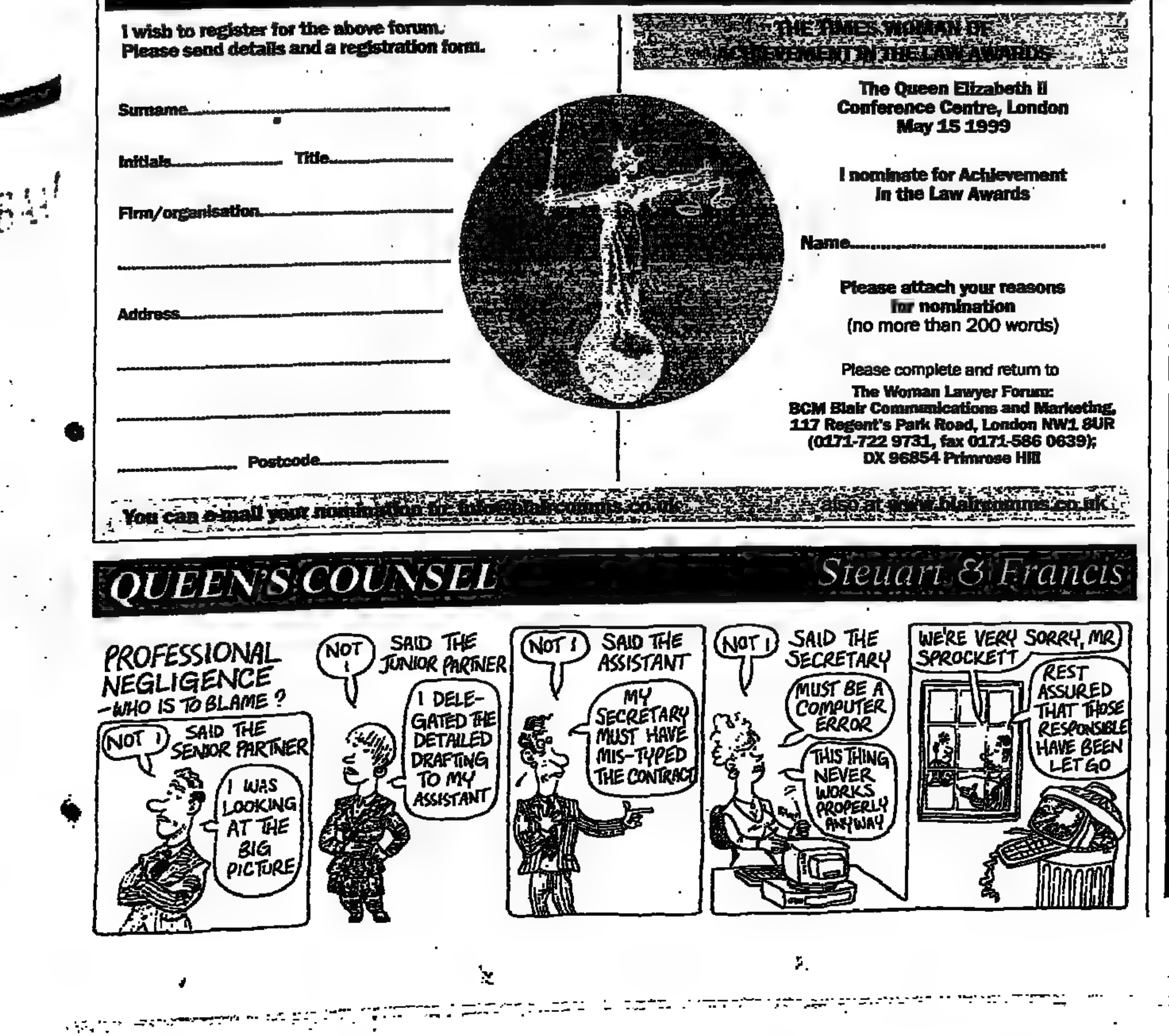
The Times is sponsoring the Woman of Achievement in the Law Awards, which will be presented at a reception by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor. For nominations for the award, see the coupon below left.

The forum will also see the launch of Euro Women or the European Women Lawyers' Association. Not just lawyers but lawyers and their clients are looking more towards Europe: one in three businesses in the UK and Europe is being set up by women.

Ms McCabe adds: "It was women who first got together and made the point that women's issues were not being addressed. Now we are saying: 'This is not just a matter to be left to us; it is for everyone.' The debate has come of age."

FRANCES GIBB

● *Woman Lawyer — making the difference* (Butterworths, £9.95)



THE 1999 WOMAN LAWYER FORUM

I wish to register for the above forum. Please send details and a registration form.

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The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London May 15 1999

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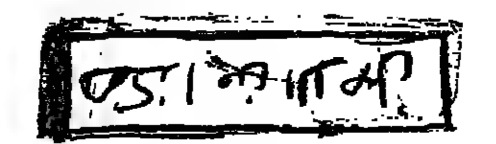
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Please attach your reasons for nomination (no more than 200 words)

Please complete and return to The Woman Lawyer Forum: BCM Blair Communications and Marketing, 117 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UR (0171-722 9731, fax 0171-586 0639); DX 96854 Primrose Hill

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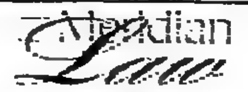
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Part of the Fashion Café's assets was the name value of the supermodels Elle Macpherson, left, Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer

The face value of names

Intellectual property rights can be very valuable — particularly with a recession looming, says Charles Pugh

What do household names such as the Fashion Café, Yardley and Falmer Jeans have in common? Their collapses have been widely publicised over recent months and one of the chief issues in each case for the administrator or receiver was how to exploit intellectual property rights, the IPR, the companies owned.

What is the link between IPRs and insolvency? With a recession looming, practitioners need to get to grips with IPRs as they are among the most important assets of companies in every sector.

The appointment of John Alexander as administrator of the Fashion Café highlighted how the role of the insolvency practitioner has markedly changed. When launched amid huge press coverage, the Fashion Café was expected to rival Planet Hollywood with the supermodels Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Elle Macpherson as its star attractions for regular appearances and publicity. Part of the Fashion Café's value was its name and the company also owned trademarks. The risk of damage to the name itself will have been one reason why the company opted for administration rather than liquidation.

Indeed, the type of businesses most at risk from a recession are those companies in sectors heavily reliant on intangible IPRs for their asset base.

Yardley, the "quintessential English" cosmetics group, collapsed last August. Just before Christmas the receivers could celebrate the sale of the Yardley name and many of its brands. Though they recognised that the real value lay in the goodwill attached to the brand names, they found how complex sales can be when IPRs are owned in numerous countries: in the sale of Bath Luxuries, trademark rights were involved in more than 100 countries

IPRs are extensive and protect know-how, technical processes, computer programs, as well as brands. As emphasised by Mr Justice Jacob, in Western Intelligence Limited v KDO Label Printing Machines Limited & Others (judgment May 1998), included in a company's assets may be design rights, rights in customer lists, and even its telephone numbers, all of which may be critical to the success of the business. That dispute concerned one of the so-called "phoenix" companies that arise from the ashes when a company goes into liquidation leaving creditors without recourse. Soon after, a new company emerges with the same or similar name with the benefit of the goodwill of the old company. The judge said that when this happens, transfers of important assets may occur between the old and new company with the "innocent, perhaps gullible, assistance of banks, receivers and accountants".

Before the transfer, bona fide valuations may have been obtained of the stock, property, fixtures and fittings and the amount payable calculated accordingly. So on the face of it a liquidator would have no grounds to set aside the transfer or, alternatively, to take action against the directors. But this may ignore the IPR that the original company owned and exploited.

Serious consequences may flow from this for the insolvency practitioner and the appointing bank. In Western Intelligence, the assets of the original company had been charged to the bank: unaware of the value of IPRs in the company, the bank gave its consent to a transfer of assets instigated by directors seeking to establish a new company with a similar name. According to the judge, the bank was not "fully alive to what their client was up to and with more care they might have found out".

The outcome was that the assets could be recovered by a creditor for his own benefit, leaving the bank out of pocket. The failure to recognise that the value that exists in IPRs was identified by the judge as one factor enabling the setting up of phoenix companies to continue.

The Government recently estimated the creative sector of the economy at £58 billion, growing at double the rate of the rest of the economy. The importance of IPRs cannot be underestimated and all of us, including insolvency practitioners, who will pick up the pieces of the less successful companies, need to recognise the critical role these rights play.

● *The author is head of insolvency at Llewelyn Zietman, solicitors.*

Charity should begin at the lawyer's office

Voluntary groups and charities may lose out if they are unclear about their rights. Gary Slapper reports

Charities are facing a surge in work with the dismantling of parts of the welfare state. But legal problems are impairing their ability to deliver services.

The large, well-known charities are used to engaging law firms to protect their interests and thus the interests of their beneficiaries. Most small voluntary organisations, however, cannot afford to make regular use of lawyers, and there is mounting evidence that they are being legally abused by the large public bodies that buy their services.

The Local Government Bill is now going through the House of Commons. This will give charities and voluntary groups a much greater role in the provision of social services because local authorities will be obliged under the new "best value regime" to make arrangements for the achievement of "economy, efficiency and effectiveness" in performing their statutory functions.

There are about 187,000 registered charities in England and Wales, but only a few hundred appear to make regular use of law firms. The total annual income of all charities registered with the Charity Commission is more than £18 billion. But the wealth is concentrated in a few large charities, the commission reports.

In fact, about 70 per cent of registered charities have an annual income of £10,000 or less, and the pooled income of three quarters of them amounts to less than 2 per cent of the entire annual income of charities.

Thousands of these organisations are now making contracts with local authorities, the NHS and other public bodies to provide services for unwell or vulnerable people. The trouble is that the charities are not taking legal advice about how best to make contracts and are, consequently, getting into trouble. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Charity Commission have recently published advice on how to proceed through the often prickly pathway of the law of contract.

In one case highlighted by the NCVO, a charity was contracted by a local authority on its standard terms. Under the agreement, to work with the social services department, the charity had to provide "fiduciary insurance". Broadly, this covers an employer or service purchaser against liability for the dishonesty of an employee or voluntary worker. The charity in this case, though, had no idea about the implications of the contract term.

The NCVO document *Mutual Obligations — A Guide to Contracts with Public Bodies* contains some clear examples of the benefits of good legal interventions being made on behalf of charities.

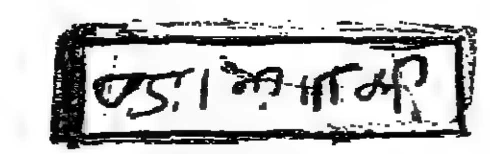
The document was written by Joss Saunders, a partner with Linnells, who notes: "Just because a charity has been offered funding does not mean that it has to accept it on the first terms offered. Some things are negotiable."

A social services department included in its standard terms of purchase the right to demand the removal of staff members from the project. The charity successfully objected on the ground that staffing decisions were a matter for the charity, not for the purchaser. The charity was responsible for ensuring that service levels were performed, and there were monitoring provisions, but it was reasonable for the charity not to allow the department power to remove its staff.

Small charities are often unclear about points that lawyers regard as relatively simple: at what point in negotiations is a legally binding contract formed? What is the difference between agreements made by contract and those by deed? If an organisation takes over a project involving existing employees, what are its obligations under the Transfer of Undertakings Regulations 1981? Sometimes, a lawyer's request for the judicious insertion of the word "reasonable" in a few places in the agreement ("the trustees will take all reasonable steps . . .") can make all the difference.

The law of charity is a complex and organic entity but it does not truly impede charitable work. By contrast, ordinary, general law, such as the law of contract, is vexing the work of charities in numerous ways. This is surely an area of law preeminently suitable for pro bono work, especially as, by helping one party — the charity — hundreds or thousands of its beneficiaries will also be helped.

● *The author is director of the Law Programme, the Open University.*



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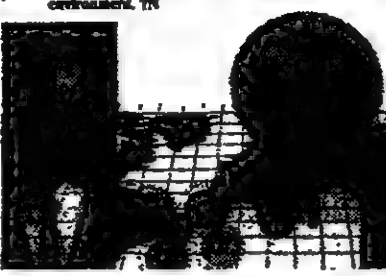
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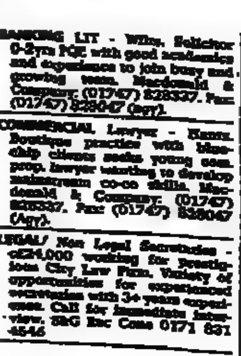
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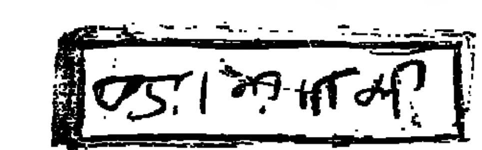
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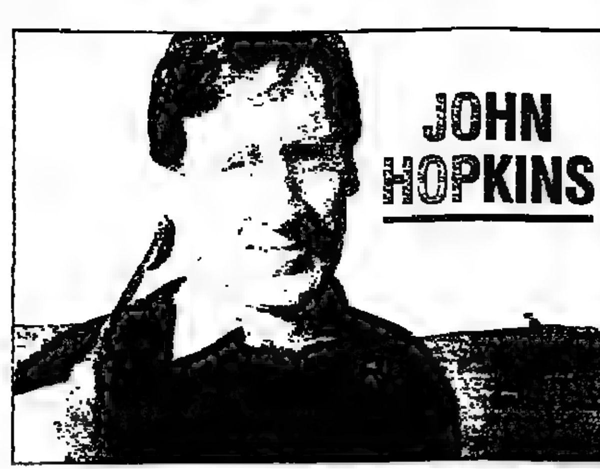
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Few great players have reacted to success as modestly as the Open champion

O'Meara remains true to his roots





O'Meara, a late developer, is friendly and approachable off the course but a fierce competitor on it. Photograph: Andrew Redington/Allsport

Look into Mark O'Meara's eyes, as Brian Watts did during the play-off for the Open Championship last year and as Tiger Woods did when expecting O'Meara to concede him an 18in putt in the final of the World Match Play Championship at Wentworth, and you see the desire of a born competitor.

O'Meara's face is as round as a golf ball and welcoming, the sort of comforting face that you hope to see when you walk into an unfamiliar bar. But do not be fooled.

This is the man who won two major championships and was the outstanding golfer in the world in 1998, a man who has called for competitors in the Ryder Cup to be paid, the man who has become a mentor to Woods, his neighbour. "That's Mark," Peter Malik, his manager, said. "Easy-going and gentlemanly, but hard."

We are all children of our parents, some of us owing more to the influences of one than the other. Greg Norman, for example, is driven by a desire to please his father, while Nick Faldo is the living embodiment of the aims and ambitions of his mother.

O'Meara is the balanced product. From Bob, his father, he has inherited the capacity to make friends easily, a characteristic that stood him in good stead as a child when his parents moved house seven times before he was 13.

Nelda O'Meara has passed on to her son a considerable work ethic, an outlook on life that has made him cherish what he has had to work for and an understanding of the true meaning of wealth. With winnings of nearly £2 million last year alone, O'Meara could easily afford to buy or lease a plane and he considered it for a while, before those maternal teachings surfaced. "It was either fly around by myself or have a nice apartment where I could enjoy some off-season time with my family," he said. "So I bought an apartment in Deer Valley, Utah, where we can all ski.

"As a kid, I remember my Mom would ask me to go and pull the weeds. I'd go out there, pull them real quick and come back in and she would say to me: 'You're not done. You didn't get the roots. You have got to get the roots, otherwise the weeds grow right back again.' These are the things she taught me. Turn off the light. Take care of your things.

"The first thing I do a lot of times when I get home after a trip is go down early the next morning and wash the cars and maybe wax them if they need it. Or I'll go and clean up my boats."

Though, on and off a golf course, O'Meara has a pleasantly rumpled look that adds to his charm, he is, in fact, almost as neat as Justin Leonard, his predecessor as Open champion, who puts his socks in rows according to their colours.

"People who come to my home might say: 'Wow, you can eat off the garage floor.' My feeling, from when I began playing professionally, is that I started with very little and now I've got a few nice things. I used to take care of things back then. I do so now. You should take pride that you have accomplished something in your life that has enabled you to afford to buy something nice."

Bob and Nelda O'Meara were not the only influences at work on the young Mark. Ben Hogan played his part, too. It was in the offices of the legendary champion that O'Meara, the 1979 US Amateur champion, signed to turn professional.

Later, O'Meara sought help with his golf swing from Hogan, before ignoring it, in a burst of youthful heresy. "Mr Hogan said: 'I'll watch you hit some balls, but I might not say anything.'

"A couple of years later, I came out to Shady Oaks and he watched me hit balls. I was hitting it great. He told me things about my swing and he got me set up in a certain way and then I started hitting it and I was doing it worse. I asked him what he thought. He said: 'That looks a lot better.' I thought to myself: 'I'm not going to do this. I am doing better with what I've got.' So I stuck with what I was working on."

By one of those pleasing coincidences that come along from time to time, O'Meara was 41 last year, his year of years, the same age as Hogan in 1953, when he had his year of years, winning the Masters, the US Open and the Open Chaqmpionship. Another link: Hogan won the 1953 Open at Carnoustie, the redoubtable Scottish course, and it is there in July that O'Meara will defend his title.

When, late in 1996, Woods moved to within 40 paces of O'Meara's house in Isleworth, Orlando, Florida, it was clear that he was going to learn from O'Meara. What is less well-known is how much O'Meara has been revitalised by the young man who is almost half his age. O'Meara has been one of the most consistent golfers in the United States for the past 15 years, but an exceptional one since Woods's arrival.

"Being a friend of Tiger's has definitely helped me improve my game, because Tiger Woods can do things with a golf ball that Mark O'Meara cannot. He has so much more ability than I know I have, so I have had to find some way to beat him or get my game up a couple of notches. Earlier this month, when Tiger and I played together at Pebble Beach, we were walking down the 15th hole and he said: 'I enjoy playing so much with you. I have learnt so much watching you play.' I guess he means from the way I conduct myself on the course, the way I manage myself around it.

"I hope if he came to me and asked for an honest opinion, I would give him that and, if he steps out of line or I think he is doing something crazy, I have told him. I would reproach him. Let's face it, he has brought a lot of new interest into golf. He has been good for golf."

He might have added: "And good for Mark O'Meara, too."

> 'Being a friend of Tiger's has definitely helped me to improve my game'

Faldo gets final place in field at La Costa

By John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent

NICK FALDO arrived in London yesterday a happy man, relieved that none of his rivals for a place in the Andersen Consulting World Match Play Championship in California next week had overtaken him in the latest world ranking list, compiled after tournaments around the world had concluded on Sunday.

Faldo has cancelled plans to compete in the European Tour event in Qatar this week and, instead, will stay in England before flying to La Costa to prepare for the first of the World Golf Championship events.

Somehow, Faldo has held on to 65th place in the world rankings, despite missing the two-round cut in the Desert Classic in Dubai last week. The field for the World Golf Championship event is the world's top 64 players and since Jumbo Ozaki, ranked No 14, will not be there, Faldo has got the last spot.

He needed plenty of luck to make it. The performances of Andrew Coltart, Robert Karlsson and Per-Ulrik Johansson in Dubai were not good enough for them to overtake him. In the Australian Masters, Greg Turner, of New Zealand, would have taken over from Faldo had he finished in a two-way tie for third. He did finish third — but with two others, not one.

After this news had been relayed to Faldo in Dubai, all that remained was to check performances in the Buick Invitational tournament in San Diego, where Chris Perry needed to finish second to eliminate the former Open champion and David Thoms seventh. As it happened, Perry came fourth and although Thoms had a putt to make Faldo's journey unnecessary, it went wide.

Faldo's participation may prove to be a mixed blessing, however, for he must face Tiger Woods, the world No 1, in the first round and Woods is in form. He won the San Diego event, his first victory since May last year.

Richard Evans on a new trainer at West Ilsley

Coakley confident of staying the distance

It is a fact that every week of the year, on average, a racehorse trainer gives up the struggle to make ends meet and hands in his or her licence. It is also a fact that a new trainer takes out a licence, on average, every week of the year.

Economists would be delighted by such a perfect example of supply and demand at work and suggest, no doubt, that the racehorse training profession is finely matched to the needs of the consumer. Students of human nature might argue that such statistics prove trainers are divided equally into pessimists and optimists. Denis Coakley is about to discover the truth.

After spending the last ten years as assistant to Lord Huntingdon at West Ilsley, during which time he experienced the joys of Royal Ascot winners and helping to prepare horses owned by the Queen, he is the latest recruit to the training ranks.

Coakley, 39, is living proof of the old adage about every cloud having a silver lining. Although he had hummed and hawed about setting up on his own, the decision last October by Lord Huntingdon to hand in his licence was the jolt which transformed thought into action. As Huntingdon closed a chapter in his life, he helped to open another for his protégé. "My first thought upon hearing the news was to start training myself," he recalled yesterday.

The 16-box yard from which Coakley is setting up shop is barely a couple of furlongs down the drive from the historic West Ilsley yard which is now up for sale. Keepers Stables, built a decade ago but used only occasionally as an isolation yard, is owned by Huntingdon, who has always preached the need for starter yards for young trainers. Now he has the opportunity to put words into action and is renting the yard out on a box by box basis — and offering positive encouragement by filling one of them with Gascon, an unraced three-year-old.

Former owners with Huntingdon have also been swift to give Coakley an all-important leg up onto the training ladder. Stanley Sharp, who enjoyed such success with Penny Drops, winner of the Cambridgeshire and Forte Mile, has sent him four horses, including a Barathea colt out of Penny Drops.

George Ward, one of racing's biggest sponsors who particularly enjoys West Ilsley's tranquility, has filled two boxes with Smart Squall, a listed winner, and a two-year-old by Puissance. Faraway Lass, a useful top of the ground sprinter who has won five races, will carry John Rose's colours, while Sharp Spice, owned by a Newbury pub syndicate, is another to have made the short journey to Keepers Stables.

By the start of the Flat season, in six weeks' time, a dozen of the boxes should be full and Coakley will find out whether he has what it takes. His apprenticeship within racing gives him every chance.

After riding point-to-point and bumper winners in his native Ireland, he went to Australia, where he first met Huntingdon in the early 1980s, and worked on a stud. He then joined Gordon Richards in Cumbria and enjoyed a fair share of success as a jockey, including winners at Cheltenham and Aintree, before going to the United States. After working for Janet Elliott, a leading jumps trainer, and Neil Drysdale, he joined Huntingdon at Newmarket in 1988.

When Huntingdon announced he was retiring, Coakley was quick to attend a three-week trainers' course at the British Racing School in Newmarket, a compulsory requirement before a licence can be granted by the Jockey Club.

The lectures on management of horses may have taught him little new, but learning how to deal with staff, setting up a business plan and coping with accounts proved invaluable. As a result he has devised an all-in training package — excluding transport — for £240 a week, which makes life simpler for owners and himself.

"I hope to have five horses ready to run in April. They are all fit and healthy at the moment. I will be disappointed if the horses I have got do not all win in their own grade." Now there is confidence for you.



Coakley returns from exercising Browning, one of his recruits, at Keepers Stables, his base in West Ilsley

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2.00 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,635: 2m 1f) (15 runners)

101 FP 042 SCRAPTASTIC 12 (Mrs A Bell) P Beaumont 8-11-10 T Reed 77
102 0-0516 BAWARA 73 (D,S) (R Robson) L Lungo 5-11-9 R Supple 84
103 1P2000 REVERSE CHARGE 14 (D,F) (G Harker) G A Harker 7-11-8 F Leahy [illegible]
104 10R234 MONIS 3 (F) (C Sherry) B Ellison 8-11-7 C McCormack (3) 86
105 01-300 MUTASARRIF 76 (D,F) (F White) J Dodds 8-11-6 S Melrose (7) 86
106 00045 CURTAINSATCHOPWELL 52 (Durham Drapes Ltd) T Easterby 5-11-4 L Wyer 46
107 366/P JARAAB 32F (J Branch) D Smith 8-11-4 R Garritty –
108 024602 NORMAN CONQUEST 66 (B & K Associates) M Hammond 5-11-3 N Horrocks (5) 81
109 /6-331 LINDAJANE 18 (S) (Mrs H Whillans) D Whillans 7-11-1 I Jardine (7) 94
110 5-560 GALINDO 33 (P Gormley) J Howard Johnson 5-11-0 L Cooper (7) 74
111 305- MR BOMBASTIQUE 211F (Howarting s Partnership) Mrs J Brown 5-10-13 A Dobbin 63
112 6330 NAJJAR 18 (J Smith's Ltd) J FitzGerald 4-10-10 P Niven 50
113 6024 DISCO TEX 11 (G) (Mybank Racing) M W Easterby 4-10-8 R Dunwoody 77
114 U5625 RUBAMMA 41F (BF) (Miss N Spencer) D Murray Smith 4-10-8 R Thornton 73
115 2UU20F MADGE MCSPLASH 14 (S) (Mr & Mrs J Davenport) J Jefferson 7-10-8 B Harding 77

BETTING: 5-1 Norman Conquest, 6-1 Najjar, 7-1 Lindajane, 8-1 Bawara, Monis, 10-1 Scraptastic, Mutasarrif, Disco Tex, 12-1 others

1998: NORTHERN MAESTRO 4-10-0 G Lee (8-1) Mrs M Reveley 14 ran

FORM FOCUS: Scraptastic 9l 2nd of 12 to Knockers Fair in novice hurdle at Kelso (3m 110yd, soft). Bawara 17l 6th of 19 to Aussie Bob in novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (3m 4f 110yd, good), previously beat My Saltarello 3l in 10-runner novice handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m 1f, heavy). Reverse Charge 20l 10th of 15 to Forty Love in novice handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good). Monis 6½l 4th of 6 to Marigliano in handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m, good). Curtainsatchopwell 27l 5th of 10 to Lord Lamb in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) with Galindo (4lb better off) 27l 6th. Norman Conquest 6l 2nd of 5 to Marigliano in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). Lindajane beat Red Hot Indian 2½l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, soft), previously 11l 3rd of 9 to Crazy Horse in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, heavy) with Scraptastic (4lb worse off) 37l 4th. Mr Bombastique 18l 5th of 10 to [illegible] in 4yo novice hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm). Disco Tex 23l 4th of 17 to Christened in 4yo novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good), previously 13l 2nd of 10 to Rapid in 3yo juvenile novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy).

DISCO TEX appears fairly weighted on his handicap bow and is an interesting booking for Richard Dunwoody

2.30 LAND OF THE PRINCE BISHOPS NOVICES CHASE
(£3,901: 3m 3f) (15 runners)

201 -4214F BOLD ACTION 21 (F,S) (Mrs S Blakeley) J Turner 8-11-5 B Harding 103
202 F-314 MASTER NOVA 29 (B,S) (Mrs S Camacho) Miss J A Camacho 9-11-5 P Niven 96
203 352122 MENSHAAR 17 (B,G,S) (Miss S Blumberg) L Lungo 7-11-5 R Supple [illegible]
204 33-201 TURNPOLE 11 (G,S) (Mr & Mrs W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-5 Mr A Dempsey (3) 89
205 13-P0P KENTUCKY GOLD 12 (G,S) (Halewood Int Ltd) Mrs L Williamson 10-11-2 Mr D Sherlock 85
206 3-5252 CASTLE RED 12 (B) (G Brown & B Watson) J Howard Johnson 8-10-12 D Parker 100
207 P334P- CROSS THE RUBICON 298 (P Harker) G A Harker 8-10-12 F Leahy 104
208 PF0-P0 DON TOCINO 11 (G) (H Bell) T Carr 9-10-12 N Smith –
209 -0PP53 HOWYOUDOING 11 (Mrs G Handley) S Kettlewell 9-10-12 S Taylor 87
210 PP/359 JELALI 26 (G) (Fort Partnership) D Murray Smith 6-10-12 R Thornton 71
211 2444B LOTHIAN COMMANDER 12 (B) (R Bellamy) D McCain 7-10-12 A G Coyle (5) 85
212 BP5P63 QUIXALL CROSSETT 3 (Mrs K Woodhead) E Caine 14-10-12 Mr C Rae 60
213 34134- SPIRIT OF STEEL 291 (S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 8-10-12 R Garritty –
214 /04P-4 TWEEDSWOOD 11 (J Yeadon) P Beaumont 9-10-12 T Reed 66
215 2-0000 OUR CAROL 41 (R Bainbridge) F Murtagh 7-10-7 A Dobbin –

BETTING: 4-5 Turnpole, 11-4 Master Nova, 6-1 Menshaar, 12-1 Castle Red, 14-1 Bold Action, Spirit Of Steel, 25-1 Howyoudoing, 33-1 others.

1998: GALEN 7-10-10 A S Smith (3-1 jt fav) Mrs M Reveley
dead-heat with SILLY PET 8-10-10 K Bentley (50-1) C Pogson 12 ran

FORM FOCUS: Bold Action fell in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 7f 110yd, soft), previously 13l 4th of 11 to River Don in novice chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft) with Howyoudoing (levels) pulled up. Master Nova 29l 4th of 12 to Looks Like Trouble in novice chase at Doncaster (3m, good); previously beat Bold Action (levels) 16l in 12-runner novice chase at Newcastle (3m, good to soft). Menshaar beaten a distance 2nd of 5 to Single Sourcing in novice handicap chase at Ayr (2m 5f 110yd, heavy), previously beaten a distance 2nd of 4 to Cherokee Chief in novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). Turnpole beat Sister Gale 3½l in 5-runner novice chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good) with Howyoudoing (7lb better off) 6½l 3rd and Tweedswood (7lb better off) 7½l 4th. Castle Red 2½l 2nd of 7 to Radiation in novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, soft) with Lothian Commander (levels) brought down. Jelali 57l 5th of 10 to Legal Right in novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to soft). Spirit Of Steel 23l 4th of 12 to Old Hush Wing in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good).

TURNPOLE jumped soundly when scoring a bloodless victory latest and should be followed

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
L Lungo	10	37	27.0	P Niven	38	149	25.5
J FitzGerald	10	39	25.6	M H Naughton	4	19	21.1
J Jefferson	9	37	24.3	G Lee	16	83	19.3
Mrs M Reveley	51	210	24.3	S Durack	4	22	18.2
J J O'Neill	7	32	21.9	J Supple	12	70	17.1
D Smith	14	66	21.2	C McCormack	11	66	16.7

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Leicester: 3.20 Merry Shot, 4.20 Sadler's Secret. **Lingfield Park:** 2.40 Without Friends. **Sedgefield:** 2.30 Master Nova, Menshaar. 4.30 Heavy Hustler.

SNOW REPORTS
SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	90	100	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-12	11/2
Austria								
Kitzbühel	85	185	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	1	14/2
Obergurgl	60	270	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-4	14/2
St Anton	120	430	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-2	15/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	143	173	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-8	14/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	159	300	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	11/2
Avoriaz	130	230	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-2	14/2
Flaine	160	400	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-5	11/2
La Clusaz	120	240	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-4	11/2
La Tania	174	250	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-9	13/2
Les Arcs	175	250	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	10/2
Meribel	100	255	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-9	11/2
Tignes	139	270	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-17	11/2
Val Thorens	130	270	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-10	13/2
Val d'Isere	141	300	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	2	11/2
Italy								
Cervinia	80	160	Good	Open	Crusty	Fine	-8	11/2
Cortina	55	70	Fair	Open	Varied	Sun	-4	14/2
M di Campiglio	50	110	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	9/2
Norway								
Geilo	50	70	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-4	15/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	120	470	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	11/2
Davos	130	205	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-8	14/2
Klosters	130	210	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	14/2
Murren	140	300	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-8	14/2
Saas Fee	55	300	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-13	10/2
St Moritz	90	150	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	9/2
Villars	120	250	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-9	11/2
Wengen	110	160	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-5	15/2
United States								
Aspen	110	135	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-1	15/2
Deer Valley	230	240	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-5	11/2

L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes

3.00 ALPHAMERIC BET SETTLING SYSTEM NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,583: 2m 5f 110yd) (15 runners)

301 60 ACCADEMIA 24 (Cardinal Racing) D Murray Smith 6-11-7 S Durack –
302 AELRED (J Gledson) R Johnson 6-11-7 K Johnson –
303 465-[illegible] CALDAMUS 18 (P Warwick) Mrs M Jones 7-11-7 A Dobbin 69
304 0-000 GEOMAR 31 (G Singleton) P Beaumont 6-11-7 R Supple –
305 000- GREAT POTENTIAL 264 (Mrs J Plummer) P Beaumont 7-11-7 B Grattan (3) –
306 1R60- GUS CUNNINGHAM 277 (S) (M Reveley Club) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-7 Mr A Dempsey (3) 13
307 P HONEST HERBERT 125 (J Johnson) J Howard Johnson 6-11-7 D Parker –
308 46-043 JOLLY MINSTER 11 (D Allinson) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-7 G Lee 60
309 54 KARISMA 115 (J Vic Roper) D Smith 6-11-7 R Garritty –
310 -2231P KOBALT 149 (G) (I Campbell) A Whillans 5-11-7 I Jardine (7) –
311 0 NIP ON 93 (R Ellerbeck) J Turner 5-11-7 T Reed –
312 0-004P THREE LAKES 15 (Raeburn Brick Ltd) I Semple 5-11-7 B Harding 26
313 0 SILLY PRICETAG 31 (Miss S Shinnerton) F Murtagh 6-11-2 Mr D Jewett (7) –
314 0 DELAYED REACTION 11 (A Milner) M Sowersby 4-10-10 B Storey –
315 32220 SAXON VICTORY 75 (Saxon Victory Partnership) Mrs V Ward 4-10-10 R Thornton [illegible]

BETTING: 11-10 Jolly Minster, 9-2 Saxon Victory, 5-1 Caldamus, 7-1 Karisma, 16-1 Honest Herbert, 20-1 others.

1998: TOTEM POLE 5-11-7 P Niven (8-1) Mrs M Reveley 15 ran

FORM FOCUS: Caldamus 36l 5th of 13 to Gondime Gorge in novice hurdle at Doncaster (3m 110yd, good to soft). Geomar 41l 9th of 17 to Enborne in national hunt flat race at Newcastle (2m, heavy) with Silly Pricetag (levels) 45l 11th. Gus Cunningham 39l 7th of 10 to Just Bayard in novice hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to firm), previously 34l 6th of 21 to Shagreen in national hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 1f, heavy). Jolly Minster 18l 3rd of 10 to Splendid Melody in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good), previously 13l 4th of 14 to Es Go in maiden hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Karisma 15l 4th of 12 to Scotmail Lad in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, soft). Nip On 19l 12th of 15 to Lord Of The Sky in national hunt flat race at Ayr (2m, good to soft). Three Lakes pulled up in novice hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, soft), previously 23l 4th of 8 to Mr Lurpak in maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (3m 4f, good to firm). Saxon Victory 31l 8th of 18 to Cool Performance in 3yo novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good), previously 10l 2nd of 8 to Hum Hill in 3yo novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to soft).

JOLLY MINSTER has sound claims on the form book in a weak contest

3.30 TOTE HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£5,836: 2m 1f) (12 runners)

401 /232F- ALABANG 338 (D,G) (Elite Racing Club) Miss J A Camacho 8-11-13 R Garritty –
402 -41152 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 10 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-13 Mr A Dempsey (3) 96
403 5-1603 BAKKAR 49 (G,S) (M Burke & 5th Family Settlement) T Easterby 5-11-8 L Wyer 128
404 -16330 FATEHALKHAIR 11F (CD,F,G) (R Wagner) B Ellison 7-11-7 C McCormack (3) 122
405 1P-242 PAPUA 27F (F) (R Hitchins) I Balding 5-11-6 R Dunwoody 128
406 P-1435 JUSTIN MAC 10 (D,F,G,S) (Mr & Mrs R Green) J FitzGerald 8-11-4 P Niven 112
407 211PP1 KILBUE KING 12 (S) (A McLuckie) P Monteith 7-11-2 A Dobbin 110
408 446F5F SUPERTOP 12 (D,F,G) (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 11-11-0 W Dowling (5) 129
409 -33133 COUNTRY ORCHID 46 (CD,G,S) (Mrs Kehoe) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-13 M H Naughton (5) 120
410 1330 FAIRY RIDGE 94 (G) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 4-10-2 R McGrath 92
411 5-2453 GOSPEL SONG 12 (S) (C Whillans) A Whillans 7-10-2 B Harding [illegible]
412 623133 WARRLIN 18 (CD,G,S) (Glasgow House Racing) C Fairhurst 5-10-0 N Horrocks (5) 118

Long handicap: Warrlin 9-13

BETTING: 5-1 Papua, 11-2 Country Orchid, 6-1 Kilbue King, Fatehalkhair, 7-1 Once More For Luck, 8-1 Alabang, 10-1 Fairy Ridge, Warrlin, 12-1 Gospel Song, 14-1 Supertop, 16-1 Justin Mac, Bakkar

1998: FATEHALKHAIR 6-10-6 C McCormack (7-2) B Ellison 11 ran



Alabang fell in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft), previously 4l 2nd of 10 to Shahrur in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m, good to soft). Once More For Luck neck 2nd of 5 to The Brewmaster in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (3m, good to soft) with Justin Mac (7lb better off) 37l last. Bakkar 20l 3rd of 5 to Globe Runner in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). Fatehalkhair 26l 7th of 13 to Polar Prospect in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good), previously 5l 3rd of 16 to Grey Shot in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Papua 2l 2nd of 6 to Barnapour in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). Kilbue King beat Growing 10l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, soft) with Gospel Song (11lb better off) 13l 3rd and Supertop (11lb better off) fell. Country Orchid 6½l 3rd of 6 to Marigliano in handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m, good to soft). Fairy Ridge 64l 8th of 9 to Katarino in 3yo novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft); previously 5½l 3rd of 9 to Navarre Samson in juvenile novice hurdle grade 2 at Wetherby (2m, good). Warrlin 11l 3rd of 17 to Reggie Buck in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft)

FATEHALKHAIR, highly tried on his last hurdles start, looks capable of playing a leading role here

4.00 JACK BRITTON MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,254: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

501 1F5213 BALLESWHIDDEN 24 (BF,D,G,S) (T Staunton) R Fahey 7-12-0 L Wyer 106
502 11-6FP PRINCE OF SAINTS 17 (D,G,S) (J Buzzeo) M Hammond 8-11-10 B Harding [illegible]
503 P41F33 MOSS PAGEANT 31 (D,G,S) (Mrs F Walton) J Walton 9-10-13 B Storey 109
504 52F0U1 BLAZING DAWN 25 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Hubbuck) J Hubbuck 12-10-12 A Dobbin 107
505 6-P505 CUMBERLAND BLUES 199 (C,F,G) (J Holdroyd) A J Lockwood 10-10-12 L Cooper (7) 88
506 13-344 QUEENSWAY 52 (D,S) (G Shiel) J FitzGerald 7-10-11 R Garritty 97
507 F3/5P4 PRINCE SKYBURD 52 (CD,F) (Mrs P Avison) Mrs P Avison 8-10-7 S Durack –
508 02-444 JUNE'S RIVER 52 (A Flannigan) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-0 G Lee 87
509 4-0P00 ANOTHER RED 47 (C,D,F,S) (W Raw) W Raw 11-10-0 N Horrocks (5) 85
510 04-U00 MARLINGFORD 11 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Brennan) Mrs J Jordan 12-10-0 Mr O Fagan 67

Long handicap: June's River 9-13, Another Red 9-11, Marlingford 9-9

BETTING: 2-1 Balleswhidden, 7-2 Blazing Dawn, 11-2 Moss Pageant, 6-1 Queensway, 7-1 Prince Of Saints, 8-1 June's River, 25-1 Another Red, Marlingford, 33-1 others.

1998: KILDRUMMY CASTLE 6-10-0 G Lee (8-1) J FitzGerald 9 ran

FORM FOCUS: Balleswhidden 7½l 3rd of 10 to Castletown Count in novice handicap chase at Catterick (3m 3f, soft), previously beat Amlwch 2l in 6-runner novice handicap chase at Catterick (3m, soft). Moss Pageant 17l 3rd of 7 to Denbys Gorse in handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, heavy), previously 3½l 3rd of 5 to Count Karmuski in handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Blazing Dawn beat Dar Couture neck in 7-runner handicap chase at Kelso (2m 1f, heavy). Cumberland Blues 32l 5th of 7 to Sagaman in handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good), previously 27l 6th of 15 to Irish Dominion in handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). Queensway 27l 4th of 6 to The Snow Burn in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to soft). June's River beaten a distance 4th of 6 to Supreme Soviet in novice handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy), previously 37l 4th of 12 to Nilu Dee in novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good)

BLAZING DAWN scored in heavy ground last time but is equally effective on a sounder surface

4.30 ALPHAMERIC RED ONION NOVICES CHASE
(£3,116: 2m 5f) (15 runners)

601 4-1F6P HEAVY HUSTLER 62 (B,CD,F,S) J Howard Johnson 8-11-11 C McCormack (3) 103
602 21-323 GLENBOWER 64 (G,S) (Mrs S Watonsun) M Hammond 7-11-4 B Harding 99
603 F/400- JOSS BAY 440 (Mrs J Young) T Tate 7-11-4 R Garritty –
604 66-000 MADEMIST SAM 62 (M Clarke) P Beaumont 7-11-4 B Grattan (3) –
605 U2-422 MIKE STAN 15 (BF,G,S) (J Crichton) L Lungo 8-11-4 R Supple 104
606 -2U353 QUEENS BRIGADE 12 (S) (Mrs F Walton) J Walton 7-11-4 B Storey 98
607 425P REFLEX COURIER 21 (M Tucker) J Upson 7-11-4 J Supple 80
608 -0P423 ROYAL SCIMITAR 10 (S) (P J M Racing) M Tompkins 7-11-4 L Wyer [illegible]
609 P/1-P0 SKANE RIVER 19 (G) (Mrs A Kenny) Mrs S Smith 8-11-4 R Wilkinson (5) –
610 10300P SLIEMA CREEK 12 (B,CD,G,S) (V Thompson) V Thompson 5-11-1 Mr M Thompson 46
611 1482-0 DISTANT HILLS 41 (D,G) (R Nesbitt) J Dodds 7-10-13 J Burke –
612 06P0-2 FLOSS THE BOSS 98 (I Lynch) Mrs J Brown 6-10-13 D Bentley 22
613 1445-0 NOREASONATALL 24 (S) (A Knowles) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-13 P Niven –
614 P-0560 ONE STOP 11 (M Brennan) M Barnes 6-10-13 S Taylor –
615 006000 NORTHERN FLASH 3 (J Haynes) J Haynes 5-10-8 A Dobbin –

BETTING: 9-4 Glenbower, 11-4 Royal Scimitar, 7-2 Mike Stan, 6-1 Reflex Courier, 10-1 Queens Brigade, 14-1 Heavy Hustler, 20-1 Distant Hills, 25-1 others

1998: SHANAVOGH 7-11-4 J Callaghan (4-5 fav) G M Moore 12 ran



Heavy Hustler pulled up in handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good), previously 35l 6th of 12 to House Captain in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to soft). Glenbower 18l 3rd of 9 to Menshaar in novice chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, heavy) with Queens Brigade (levels) unseated rider. Joss Bay 19l 9th of 19 to Stonesby in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). Mike Stan 2l 2nd of 6 to Mr Frangipani in novice chase at Ayr (2m 5f 110yd, soft), previously short head 2nd of 5 to Hurst Flyer in novice chase at Ayr (2m 5f 110yd, heavy). Queens Brigade 27l 3rd of 7 to Radiation in novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, soft). Reflex Courier pulled up in maiden chase at Leicester (2m 7f 110yd, soft), previously 32l 5th of 8 to Danger Flynn in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, soft). Royal Scimitar 5l 3rd of 8 to Nilu Dee in novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Distant Hills 52l 8th of 11 to Jessolle in mares handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good)

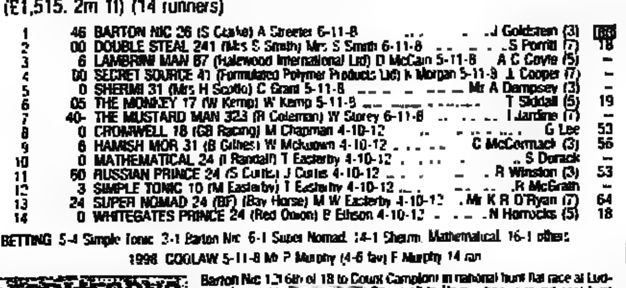
MIKE STAN has been unlucky to find one too good his last two starts but may now gain a deserved win

5.00 SEDGEFIELD MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT
(£1,515: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

1 46 BARTON NIC 26 (S Cooke) A Streeter 6-11-8 J Goldstein (3) [illegible]
2 00 DOUBLE STEAL 241 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-11-8 S Porritt (7) 18
3 6 LAMBRINI MAN 87 (Halewood International Ltd) D McCain 5-11-8 A C Coyle (5) –
4 00 SECRET SOURCE 41 (Formulated Polymer Products Ltd) K Morgan 5-11-8 L Cooper (7) –
5 0 SHERMI 31 (Mrs H Scotto) C Grant 5-11-8 Mr A Dempsey (3) –
6 05 THE MONKEY 17 (W Kemp) W Kemp 5-11-8 T Siddall (5) 19
7 40- THE MUSTARD MAN 323 (R Coleman) W Storey 6-11-8 I Jardine (7) –
8 0 CROMWELL 18 (GB Racing) M Chapman 4-10-12 G Lee 53
9 6 HAMISH MOR 31 (B Gillies) W McKeown 4-10-12 C McCormack (3) 56
10 0 MATHEMATICAL 24 (I Randall) T Easterby 4-10-12 S Durack –
11 60 RUSSIAN PRINCE 24 (S Curtis) J Curtis 4-10-12 R Winston (3) 53
12 3 SIMPLE TONIC 10 (M Easterby) T Easterby 4-10-12 R McGrath –
13 24 SUPER NOMAD 24 (BF) (Bay Horse) M W Easterby 4-10-12 Mr K R O'Ryan (7) 64
14 0 WHITEGATES PRINCE 24 (Red Onion) B Ellison 4-10-12 N Horrocks (5) 18

BETTING: 5-4 Simple Tonic, 3-1 Barton Nic, 6-1 Super Nomad, 14-1 Shermi, Mathematical, 16-1 others

1998: COOLAW 5-11-8 Mr P Murphy (4-6 fav) F Murphy 14 ran



Barton Nic 12l 6th of 18 to Count Campioni in national hunt flat race at Ludlow (2m, soft). Cromwell 25l 8th of 17 to Barney Knows in national hunt flat race at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft). Hamish Mor 33l 6th of 17 to Enborne in national hunt flat race at Newcastle (2m, heavy) with Shermi (levels) beaten a distance 14th and The Monkey (levels) beaten a distance 15th. Simple Tonic 2½l 3rd of 17 to Heart For The Hills in national hunt flat race at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). Super Nomad 23l 4th of 17 to Ireland's Eye in maiden nat hunt flat at Catterick (2m, soft) with Russian Prince (levels) 33l 9th. Whitegates Prince (levels) 56l 14th and Mathematical (levels) 74l 16th.

SIMPLE TONIC is taken to confirm the promise of his racecourse debut third

LEICESTER

THUNDERER
2.20 Cittadino. 2.50 Prerogative. 3.20 Waynflete. 3.50 **WISHING WILLIAM** (nap). 4.20 Goodwood Cavalier. 4.50 Welsh Mountain.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE) SOFT, HEAVY PATCHES (HURDLES COURSE) SIS

2.20 WREN HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,370: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 -060 DAMAS 62 (B,D,F,G,S) D McCain 8-11-13 T J Murphy –
2 -U40 GARETHSON 10 (S) Miss H Knight 5-11-9 J Culloty 120
3 3354 REAGANESQUE 18 (D,F,G) P Murphy 7-10-11 R Farrant 115
4 -154 SEYMOURSWIFT 63 (G,S) D Gandolfo 9-10-11 S Wynne 108
5 PP05 BRAMBLEBERRY 11 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-10-5 Mr J Crowley (5) 119
6 -3F3 DADDY DANCER 26 Mrs P Ford 8-10-4 O McPhail (5) 109
7 0-UP JUST BRUCE 12 (CD,F,S) Mrs E Heath 10-10-4 Mrs F Needham 102
8 3P24 KELLY MAC 15 (D,F,G,S) D O'Brien 9-10-2 W Marston [illegible]
9 2522 RIVER BAY 27 (B,BF,D,S) Miss H Knight 8-10-1 A Maguire 120
10 0-FP CITTADINO 31 (BF,D,G,S) C Thornton 9-10-0 D Leahy 108
11 004F AMERICANVAL 49 (S) S Mellor 11-10-0 C Webb 35
12 /25P CULLANE LAKE 47 (D,G,S) Miss F Milligan 9-10-0 J R Kavanagh 110

3-1 River Bay, 5-1 Seymourswift, 6-1 Reaganesque, 13-2 Garethson, Kelly Mac, 7-1 Cittadino, 8-1 Daddy Dancer, 20-1 others

2.50 VICARAGE CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,024: 2m) (12)

1 001/ BLANCHLAND 946F (D,F) P Richens 10-11-12 F Keniry (7) –
2 03-4 PREROGATIVE 47 (V,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 9-11-12 A P McCoy –
3 -00- BREAK THE RULES 237F (D,G,S) Miss K Marks 7-11-10 Mr N Fehily (7) 16
4 2145 BRAMBLES WAY 70 (CD,F,G,S) F Jordan 10-11-8 A Maguire [illegible]
5 MANIKATO 13F D Cosgrove 5-11-8 B Fenton –
6 8131 PRUSSIA 45 (D,F,S) W Clay 8-11-8 G Tormey 83
7 P1P0 SPRINT UP 15 (B,BF,S) M Pipe 5-11-8 C Durham (7) 84
8 120F ROUND ROBIN 11 (B,CD,S) Mrs A E Johnson 5-11-6 J A McCarthy 82
9 -0R0 SPRINTFAYRE 11 (D,F,G,S) J Long 11-11-4 D Gallagher 62
10 P-43 ANALOGICAL 17 D McCain 6-11-2 T J Murphy –
11 1F20 BRANCEPETH BELLE 18 (S) N Mason 9-11-1 H Oliver (5) 66
12 TRUST GEORGE 10F C Kellett 4-10-6 Mr R Armson –

11-4 Brambles Way, 3-1 Prerogative, 7-1 Prussia, Sprint Up, Round Robin, 8-1 Brancepeth Belle, 14-1 Break The Rules, Analogical, 25-1 others

3.20 THURNBY MAIDEN CHASE (£3,080: 2m 1f) (14)

1 FP3P BOULEVARD BAY 14 (G) Mrs P Robeson 8-11-5 M Richards 57
2 2/33 EMPEROR'S MAGIC 15 N Mason 8-11-5 R Guest –
3 362/ FEVER PITCH 667P R Hodges 9-11-5 P Holley –
4 050 FILOU DU BOIS 47 Miss H Knight 6-11-5 J Culloty –
5 /P-P GALLANT LORD 27 (G) Mrs L Jewell 10-11-5 Mr N Fehily (7) –
6 630- HIGH GALE 307 P Nicholls 7-11-5 J Tizzard –
7 -52P MERRY SHOT 38 (B,D,G) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-5 D Leahy 37
8 P RIVERSIDE STROLL 50 M Pipe 9-11-5 A P McCoy –
9 03U6 SMART GUY 21 Mrs L Jewell 7-11-5 T Peoples (7) 83
10 5-5F SWAN STREET 26 E L James 8-11-5 J R Kavanagh 46
11 663- SWEEP CLEAN 316 T Casey 7-11-5 T J Murphy –
12 5-F3 WAYNFLETE 19 N Henderson 8-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 81
13 P'PP GALLIC GIRL 15 R Hodges 9-11-0 B Powell –
14 42U4 ORIENTAL STYLE 14 (B) G Balding 5-10-10 B Fenton [illegible]

9-4 Waynflete, 5-2 High Gale, 13-2 Merry Shot, 8-1 Emperor's Magic, Oriental Style, 12-1 Boulevard Bay, 14-1 Sweep Clean, 16-1 others

3.50 TRIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,165: 2m 7f 110yd) (8)

1 1F-P A N C EXPRESS 22 (G,S) J King 11-11-10 T Jenks –
2 P-11 DARK STRANGER 20 (S) M Pipe 8-11-2 A P McCoy 126
3 -511 WISHING WILLIAM 87 (G,S) Miss H Knight 7-10-9 J Culloty 103
4 /114 IVY BOY 66 (G,S) C Mann 9-10-8 Mr N Fehily (7) [illegible]
5 F511 NOISY MINER 39 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-10-8 R Johnson 130
6 1F40 CARLEY LAD 18 (S) N Mason 11-10-0 H Oliver (5) 130
7 F133 ONEANTHREEQUARTERS 29 (G,S) P Eccles 7-10-0 A Maguire 132
8 35-P BALLYDOUGAN 12 (V,S) R Mathew 11-10-0 T J Murphy 120

5-2 Dark Stranger, 7-2 Wishing William, 4-1 Ivy Boy, Noisy Miner, 8-1 A N C Express, 14-1 Carley Lad, Oneanthreequarters, 25-1 Ballydougan

4.20 SOMERBY NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,385: 2m) (10)

1 2143 SADLER'S SECRET 21 (V,BF,S) M Pipe 11-5 A P McCoy 81
2 R AHERNE 14 B Palling 10-12 W Marston –
3 BLACK WEASEL 8F Miss J Craze 10-12 R Guest –
4 CORNICHE 87F C Kellett 10-12 L Harvey –
5 0P DANCING DERVISH 34 S Mellor 10-12 C Webb –
6 3P EL FUERTE 10 W Clay 10-12 G Tormey –
7 U2 GOODWOOD CAVALIER 32 (BF) Miss V Williams 10-12 R Johnson [illegible]
8 STOPWATCH 17F Mrs L Jewell 10-12 B Powell –
9 005 TOM'S PRIZE 40 T Wall 10-12 X Aizpuru (3) 55
10 MISS PASADENA 167F Mrs D Haine 10-7 J Culloty –

4-7 Goodwood Cavalier, 11-4 Sadler's Secret, 7-1 Miss Pasadena, 25-1 Black Weasel, Stopwatch, 33-1 Corniche, El Fuerte, Tom's Prize, 50-1 others

4.50 DADBY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,054: 2m) (7)

1 1124 NESSUN DORO 38 (D,S) S Mellor 7-12-0 C Webb 99
2 13-2 PROVINCE 12 (D,S) C Mann 6-10-10 J Magee 85
3 -5P3 RING OF VISION 18F (D,F) J J Quinn 7-10-10 A P McCoy 112
4 2212 WELSH MOUNTAIN 18 (CD,S) K Morgan 6-10-7 A S Smith [illegible]
5 3331 HIGH LOW 13 (D,F,S) I Jones 11-10-2 J Mogford (7) 99
6 2444 FAIR AND FANCY 32 (BF,CD,G,S) Miss K Milligan 8-10-1 D Gallagher 104
7 4630 GRATE BRITISH 26 (D,S) J Allen 7-10-0 X Aizpuru (3) 104

3-1 High Low, 7-2 Nessun Doro, 4-1 Province, 9-2 Ring Of Vision, 11-2 Welsh Mountain, 10-1 Fair And Fancy, 14-1 Grate British

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J King, 5 winners from 15 runners, 33.3%; N Henderson, 11 from 34, 32.4%; M Pipe, 19 from 67, 28.4%; Miss H Knight, 7 from 27, 25.9%; Mrs J Pitman, 10 from 43, 23.3%; Mrs D Haine, 3 from 13, 23.1%.

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 16 winners from 47 rides, 34.0%; G Tormey, 4 from 14, 28.6%; J Culloty, 5 from 20, 25.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 12 from 52, 23.1%; B Fenton, 4 from 22, 18.2%; J McCarthy, 4 from 23, 17.4%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
2.10 Icenic. 2.40 Homestead. 3.10 Private Seal. 3.40 Bank On Him. 4.10 Mukarrab. 4.40 Haydn James.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 DORDOGNE STAKES (£2,058: 1m) (11 runners)

1 0/0- HICKORY 321 M Haynes 4-9-12 R Cochrane 8
2 4 KINTBURY 12 P Cundell 4-9-12 S Whitworth 2
3 0-06 SECRET TANGO 7 J R Best 4-9-7 F Norton 5
4 0/0- THEME TUNE 108 Dr J Scargill 4-9-7 J P Spencer (3) 3
5 0-44 BILLICHANG 15 (BF) P Howling 3-8-7 J Quinn 9
6 0- CALLDAT SEVENTEEN 129 P D Arcy 3-8-7 D Hayden (7) 10
7 4-2 ICENIC 24 J Eustace 3-8-7 J Tate 6
8 50-4 PACIFIC ALLIANCE 35 R Armstrong 3-8-7 G Carter 1
9 03 PARTE PRIMA 15 S Kettlewell 3-8-7 R FitzPatrick (5) 11
10 05-0 RAINBOW ROMEO 42 J R Poulton 3-8-7 N Pollard (3) 7
11 6-25 LEGEND FALLS 10 J Noseda 3-8-2 T Sprake 4

5-2 Icenic, 11-4 Legend Falls, 5-1 Pacific Alliance, 8-1 Kintbury, 10-1 Billichang, 12-1 Parte Prima, 16-1 Calldat Seventeen, Rainbow Romeo, 20-1 others

2.40 BOOK A BOX FOR A DAY'S RACING HANDICAP
(£2,684: 1m) (12)

1 3-41 CRITICAL AIR 31 (CD,G) A McNae 4-9-10 T Sprake 5
2 00-0 NAUTICAL WARNING 10 (C) R Johnson 4-9-9 N Day 11
3 -000 CHEERFUL GROOM 8 (D,F) D Shaw 8-9-8 J Fanning 12
4 0-26 WITHOUT FRIENDS 14 (V,CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-4 Dean McKeown 7
5 48-4 MUSTANG 33 (C) J Pearce 6-9-0 Dale Gibson 6
6 -254 HOMESTEAD 21 (D,F,G) R Hannon 5-8-12 P Dobbs (7) 2
7 ,0/1 MELOMANIA 14 (CD) P Howling 7-8-11 J Quinn 8
8 2012 CLONOE 19 (C,D,F,S) R Ingram 5-8-6 A Nicholls (5) 9
9 500- A BREEZE 84 (F) D Morris 5-8-5 F Norton 4
10 -020 PLEIN GAZ 26 (C,S) R O'Sullivan 6-8-5 Sophie Mitchell 10
11 -000 POLISH LEGION 10 (F) J Akehurst 6-8-3 Martin Dwyer 3
12 043- WILD NETTLE 71 J Fox 5-7-12 Declan O'Shea 1

5-1 Critical Air, 5-1 Clonoe, 6-1 Mustang, Melomania, 8-1 Without Friends, Homestead, 12-1 Wild Nettle, 14-1 others

3.10 AWESOME POWER CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,646: 1m 2f) (11)

1 160- ZIDAC 83 (D,F,G) P Makin 7-9-2 A Clark 8
2 00-5 IMPELLING 14 K Burke 4-9-1 N Callan (5) 11
3 2154 BURNING 11 (D,F) N Littmoden 7-9-0 T G McLaughlin 1
4 -335 ERTLON 14 (C,F,G) C Brittain 9-9-0 T Sprake 9
5 60-4 BE VALIANT 11 (D,G) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-10 G Hannon (7) 2
6 -520 DOBERMAN 21 (B) B Meehan 4-8-7 R Perham 5
7 3006 PRIVATE SEAL 3 (B,F) J C Poulton 4-8-7 P Doe (5) 6
8 -641 VAN GURP 3 (C,G) G L Moore 6-8-6 J Quinn 4
9 00-4 RISCATTO 10 (B,D,F) W Muir 5-8-4 Martin Dwyer 7
10 00-0 RIVAL BID 14 (V,CD,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 11-8-4 D Sweeney 10
11 000/ MISS LADY LYDIA 460 J R Poulton 4-7-12 A Nicholls (5) 3

3-1 Ertlon, 4-1 Burning, 5-1 Van Gurp, 7-1 Doberman, 8-1 Zidac, 10-1 Be Valiant, Private Seal, 12-1 others

3.40 ARENA LEISURE PLC HANDICAP
(£6,215: 1m 2f) (10)

1 -061 WHITE PLAINS 7 (CD,F,S) K Burke 6-10-6 (6ex) N Callan (5) 4
2 600- HERR TRIGGER 140 (B,CD,F) Dr J Scargill 8-9-10 J P Spencer (3) 6
3 0-22 TALLULAH BELLE 13 (BF,CD,F,S) N Littmoden 6-9-9 T G McLaughlin 1
4 6-41 ORSAY 14 (CD,F,G,S) W Muir 7-9-9 Martin Dwyer 2
5 0-50 PUZZLEMENT 13 (C,D,F) C Brittain 5-9-6 T Sprake 9
6 53-1 BANK ON HIM 28 (CD) G L Moore 4-9-3 J Quinn 3
7 1011 THEKRYAATI 13 (CD) M Johnston 4-9-2 G Carter 8
8 -044 TWIN CREEKS 10 (C,F) V Soane 8-9-1 R Cochrane 7
9 00-1 KENNET 12 (CD) P Cundell 4-8-13 J Weaver 10
10 1322 KINGS ARROW 12 (CD) P Howling 4-8-8 A Nicholls (5) 5

7-2 Thekryaati, 9-2 Tallulah Belle, 6-1 White Plains, Bank On Him, Kings Arrow, 8-1 Orsay, Kennet, 12-1 others



4.10 J CHEEVER LOOPHOLE 6F AWT COURSE RECORD HANDICAP (£6,098: 6f) (9)

1 000- BOLD EFFORT 57 (G,CD,F,S) K O Brown 7-10-0 R Cochrane 3
2 3132 MUKARRAB 10 (BF,CD,G) D Chapman 5-9-4 A Culhane 1
3 -030 ROBO MAGIC 14 (CD,F) L Montague Hall 7-9-4 W Ryan 7
4 01-1 MISS HIT 21 (C,G) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-? P Fredericks (5) 6
5 5-00 DOUBLE-O 11 (B,D) W Jarvis 5-9-3 J Quinn 2
6 2-50 ELLWAY PRINCE 11 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-12 Dean McKeown 9
7 1306 JOHN BOWDLER MUSIC 11 (CD) M Johnston 4-8-9 J Fanning 8
8 0453 SCISSOR RIDGE 3 (CD,F) J Bridger 7-8-5 R Brisland (7) 5
9 -100 MISS DANGEROUS 10 (C,D,S) M Quinn 4-8-0 F Norton 4

3-1 Mukarrab, 7-2 John Bowdler Music, 4-1 Miss Hit, 11-2 Ellway Prince, 7-1 Robo Magic, 10-1 Scissor Ridge, 14-1 Double O, 16-1 others



4.40 GIRONDE HANDICAP (£2,146: 1m 4f) (13)

1 0-22 HAYDN JAMES 14 (B,F) P Harris 5-9-13 A Culhane 2
2 3-00 WAASEF 38 (CD) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-11 P Fredericks (5) 1
3 -523 KI CHI SAGA 10 (B,C) P Burgoyne 7-9-9 P McCabe 4
4 -413 CAERNARFON BAY 10 (BF,C) G L Moore 4-9-2 Candy Morris 10
5 -503 MERRY PRINCE 17 (V) P Hedger 4-9-2 J P Spencer (3) 11
6 64-2 MENDOZA 26 (C) P Mitchell 5-8-10 W Ryan 8
7 0-00 LUCKY MYST 14 C Brittain 4-9-5 N Esler (7) 3
8 0-65 HURGILL DANCER 14 (D,G) R O'Sullivan 5-8-4 P Doe (5) 7
9 0432 SIR WALTER 10 (F) A T Murphy 6-8-2 T Williams 13
10 36-0 RUSHED 35 G Enright 4-7-13 A Nicholls (5) 9
11 0-60 AVERHAM STAR 4 D Shaw 4-7-10 G Bardwell 6
12 0000 LIGHTNING REBEL 8 P Hiatt 5-7-10 Joanna Badger (7) 12
13 0/0- SHARP MOVE 19J Miss H Knight 7-7-10 J Quinn 5

4-1 Haydn James, 9-2 Caernarfon Bay, Mendoza, 5-1 Ki Chi Saga, 11-2 Hurgill Dancer, 10-1 Sir Walter, 12-1 Merry Prince, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Noseda, 7 winners from 15 runners, 46.7%; R Armstrong, 14 from 76, 18.4%; D Chapman, 21 from 115, 18.3%; M Johnston, 48 from 278, 17.3%; V Soane, 8 from 48, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 62 winners from 305 rides, 20.1%; D McKeown, 27 from 169, 16.0%; W Ryan, 43 from 264, 16.3%; A Culhane, 18 from 112, 16.1%; R Cochrane, 56 from 349, 16.0%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Hereford
Going: good
2.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **What A Fuss** (L Cummins, 40-1); 2, Other Club (6-1); 3, Forcular (40-1); 4, Rajah (4-1). Rodenstock 100-30 fav. 16 ran. 10l. J Miss H Knight. Tote: £72.40; £13.70, £1.90, £11.50. £1.50. DF: £265.60. CSF: £260.09. Tricast: £8,706.60.
2.30 (2m 3f ch) 1, **Lough Lein Spirit** (F Thornton, 40-1); 2, Miss Pennyhill (10-1); 3, Builder Boy (11-1); 4, Measured Step (13-2). Clod Hopper 6-1 jt-fav. 16 ran. 2l, 4l. Miss C Johnsey. Tote: £23.30; £3.00, £5.20, £2.40, £2.20. DF: £103.10. CSF: £365.95. Tricast: £4,277.69.
3.00 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Dublin River** (Michael Brennan, 11-4); 2, Happy Minstral (15-8 fav); 3, Goldenacres (11-1). 15 ran. NR: Mystery Man. 3l, 12l. J C Sne. Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £4.90. CSF: £7.22.
3.30 (3m ch) 1, **Cool Spot** (R Thornton, 5-1); 2, Northern Saddler (16-1); 3, Harry em Out To Dry (6-1); 4, Fils de Cresson (9-2). Connaught Cracker (fell) 7-2 fav. 16 ran. NR: Manesus. 2l, hd. G Enright. Tote: £11.00; £2.40, £4.30, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £206.20. Tote Trifecta: £965.10. CSF: £129.38. Tricast: £870.18.
4.00 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Wilmott's Fancy** (R Johnson, 8-11 fav) **Timekeeper's top rating**; 2, Bora Bora (4-1); 3, Dark Romance (12-1). 16 ran. 9l, 1. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £1.60, £3.20. DF: £2.70. CSF: £3.43.
4.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Archer** (Mr A Price, 33-1); 2, Rusty Bridge (25-1); 3, Up The Lark (100-30). Southern Flight (4th) 5-2 fav. 16 ran. 1½, 11l. R Lewis. Tote: £24.00; £6.70, £3.10, £1.60. DF: £61.00. CSF: £591.03.
5.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Tremendisto** (B Powell, 7-1); 2, Studio Thirty (9-2); 3, Supreme Master (11-1); Castlebucky (6th) 6-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Bungee Jumper. 8l, 6l. T Wall. Tote: £9.50; £3.60, £1.90, £2.60. DF: £20.00. CSF: £39.76. Tricast: £332.57.
Jackpot: not won (pool of £4,159.24 carried forward to Sedgefield today). Placepot: £31.70. Quadpot: £4.70.

Plumpton
Going: good to soft, soft in places
1.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Fayez** (S Durack, 3-1); 2, Balla d'Aire (5-1); 3, Bermuda Triangle (13-2). Falcon Sale 15-8 fav. 7 ran. 2½l, 8l. F McAuliffe. Tote: £3.80; £1.70, £3.10. DF: £11.40. CSF: £15.73.
2.20 (2m 2f ch) 1, **Kingsfold Pet** (A P McCoy, 6-4 jt-fav); 2, Kistan (7-1); 3, Caballus (14-1). North Kilkenny (4th) 6-4 jt-fav. 4 ran. 7l, dist. M Haynes. Tote: £2.10. DF: £3.00. CSF: £8.27.
2.50 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Allez Wijins** (M A Fitzgerald, 13-2); 2, Sunrise Special (7-1); 3, Dark Prectre (7-1). Stormfall Stag (fell) 7-2 fav. 11 ran. 2, 1l. N Henderson. Tote: £6.40; £2.60, £2.00, £3.00. DF: £45.50. CSF: £48.69. Tricast: £305.15.
3.20 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Strong Tel** (A P McCoy, 2-1 fav); 2, Total Joy (4-1); 3, Amber Ring (50-1). 9 ran. 20l, 22l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £1.50, £25.40. DF: £5.70. CSF: £9.26.
3.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Deep C Diva** (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4) **Thunderer's nap**; 2, Anns Girl (33-1); 3, Peasedown Tofana (25-1). Chippewa (5th) evens fav. 12 ran. 1½, dist. N Henderson. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £3.40, £2.20. DF: £16.00. CSF: £43.06.
4.20 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Stalbridge Bill** (Mrs A Goschen, 2-1 fav); 2, Local Note (4-1); 3, Regal Pursuit (8-1). 9 ran. 7l, 8l. J Dufosee. Tote: £3.20; £1.20, £1.50, £2.10. DF: £9.10. CSF: £9.64.
4.50 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **It's Wallace** (M Batchelor, 15-2); 2, August Twelfth (6-1); 3, Arrange East (4-1). Fountain Sea (4th) 100-30 fav. 7 ran. 6l, 3l. Julian Poulton. Tote: £9.60; £4.70, £4.20. DF: £17.10. CSF: £42.26.
Placepot: £89.20. Quadpot: £19.70.

Southwell
2.10 (1m 4f) 1, **Nikita's Star** (G Bardwell, 7-2); 2, Julies Jewel (13-2); 3, Robellito (11-4 fav). 5 ran. NR: Yes Keemo Sabee. 1, 11. M Bmham. Tote: £4.70; £2.00, £2.00. DF: £9.10. CSF: £20.57.
2.40 (7f) 1, **Elite Hope** (G Carter, 7-2 fav); 2, Trojan Hero (4-1); 3, Barsman (16-1). 12 ran. Sh hd, sh hd. N Tinkler. Tote: £1.70; £1.60, £2.00, £7.60. DF: £9.30. CSF: £16.26.
3.10 (1m 3f) 1, **Green Bopper** (C Lowther, 12-1); 2, Swift (7-1); 3, Dick Turpin (2-1 fav). 12 ran. 2l, nk. G Woodward. Tote: £14.50; £2.90, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £35.20. CSF: £87.14. Tricast: £221.42.
3.40 (1m) 1, **Areish** (J Edmunds, 6-1); 2, Rouge (11-2 fav); 3, Moonlight Flit (8-1). 14 ran. NR: Oxbane. 1, 1. I Balding. Tote: £7.10; £2.00, £1.90, £2.60. DF: £19.10. CSF: £34.06. Tricast: £254.09.
4.10 (1m) 1, **Martha Reilly** (G Bardwell, 16-1); 2, Rum Bulletta (7-4 fav); 3, Carnt Pooler (3-1). 8 ran. 1l, 1l. Mrs Barbara Waring. Tote: £36.10; £7.40, £1.10, £2.00. DF: £40.50. CSF: £41.53.
4.40 (6f) 1, **Nero Tirol** (P Fredericks, 3-1 fav); 2, Thomas Pet (8-1); 3, Dowdeon Times (25-1). 14 ran. 1½, 1l. A Kelleway. Tote: £4.70; £1.40, £1.90, £15.30. DF: £24.70. CSF: £24.36. Tricast: £499.50.
Placepot: £67.10. Quadpot: £6.70.

Teeton Mill eyes Ascot

TEETON MILL will face a maximum of six rivals if he takes his chance in the Mitsubishi Shogun Ascot Chase on Saturday. Venetia Williams, his trainer, will delay her decision until later in the week.

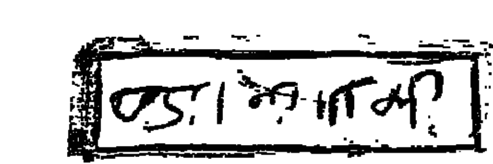
Cashmans, the Irish bookmaker, has already opened a book on the 2½-mile race and has installed Teeton Mill as the 5-4 favourite, with Direct Route at 6-4. The company then goes: 8-1 Lake Kariba, Super Coin, 12-1 Challenger Du Luc, 16-1 Senor El Betrutti and 33-1 Chief's Song.

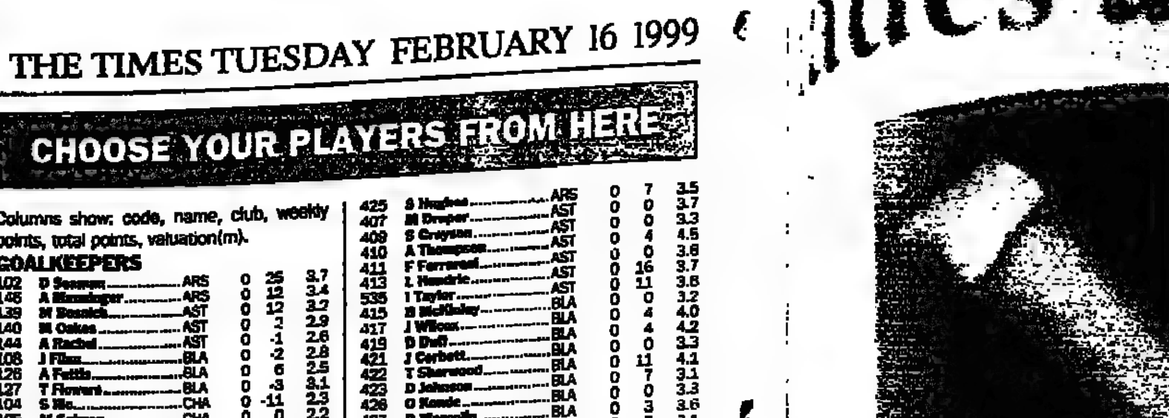
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Welsh Mountain (4.50 Leicester)

Kevin Morgan's course and distance winner showed improved form at Doncaster and looks on a tempting mark.

Next best: Noisy Miner (3.50 Leicester)







Keith Jones loses out to Steve McManaman but Charlton Athletic's valiant defending brought them an invaluable victory over Liverpool. Photograph: Kieran Doherty

FA Cup means £1,000 prize bonanza in week's rollover

This week, with the FA Cup fifth round taking precedence over fixtures in the FA Carling Premiership, there is no award of a weekly prize of £500 and no ON-Target numbers. The winner of last week's ON-Target will be announced next week.

Only three matches have been played over the past week which count towards the Times Fantasy League lists. Points scored in these matches have been added to the player lists (right) and count towards the monthly and overall prizes, but will not be taken into account in deciding next week's winner.

Next week's prize, based on Premiership matches played between today and next Sunday inclusive, will be a roll-over of £1,000 plus £100 worth of Puma sports equipment. The ON-Target prize will also be a £1,000 roll-over.

If you are considering making any transfers, it is worth bearing in mind that, as well as next weekend's league programme, there is a clutch of important FA Carling Premiership matches taking place tomorrow night.

Top of the bill is the contest between Manchester United and Arsenal at Old Trafford, a match that some pundits are describing as a possible championship decider, although many of the crowd at Stamford Bridge, where an improving Blackburn Rovers team visit Chelsea, might well beg to differ.

By the way, Dennis Bergkamp and Emmanuel Petit would not be particularly good players to transfer into your team: both are suspended, Bergkamp only for tomorrow and Petit for three matches.

At the other end of the table, Everton will attempt to score only their fourth league goal of the season at Goodison Park — thinking about a fifth or sixth would be taking optimism a bit too far — when they receive Middlesbrough. Meanwhile, Coventry City go to St James' Park to play Newcastle United, and will hope to put more daylight between themselves and the foot of the Premiership. Two teams who have lost their way in recent weeks will try to recover their league form when Leeds United travel to play Aston Villa at Villa Park.

The three Premiership games played in the past eight days have produced two surprises and one more predictable result, although even West Ham United's 2-1 victory over Nottingham Forest on Saturday contained elements of the unexpected.

Two of the goalscorers at Upton Park were unlikely marksmen: first, Ian Pearce, the central defender, popped up to give West Ham the lead with a neat volley; then, after Frank Lampard had converted a cross by Trevor Sinclair, another defender, Jon Olav Hjelde, reduced the arrears when he headed in a free kick by Pierre van Hooijdonk.

The goal was a consolation not only to Forest but perhaps also to any Fantasy League entrant whose team included Hjelde, scorer of minus seven points the previous weekend as a result of his part in Forest's 8-1 defeat at the hands of Manchester United.

Charlton Athletic victories are like the No 77 bus: none for ages, then two come along at once. Successive clean sheets against Wimbledon and Liverpool were worth six points to anyone with Charlton defenders in their selections.

So, Messrs Royce, Tiler, Powell and company, Fantasy League managers would like to state unequivocally that they always knew you would come good. Consistency among the forwards was harder to find, with Martin Pringle, Keith Jones and the unfortunate Dean Blackwell, of Wimbledon, scoring the goals for the Addicks.



PRIZES

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- £1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt
- £500 weekly On-Target prize

LEADERBOARD

P Clarke (Shebodl Utd)	293
R Little (Broken Arrow)	289
J Kerr (Serious Squad)	284
M Coles (Joe Public)	280
G Crutchley (Super S B)	279
S Kohli (Junglemen)	279
R Deane (On The Wagon)	279
P Leatham (Spike Town)	278
J Rumpinaya (Academa)	276
J White (Fusegoer)	276

YOUTH LEADERS

S Kohli (Junglemen)	279
R Anderson (Robert's R)	274
J Popat (Popat's Army)	263
D Swithenbank (Titus A S)	260
M O'Neil (The M Team)	258
M Bell (Henri & G)	258
D Martin (Saxham Tues)	257
C Macnaill	256
J Young (Notsamname)	256
R Harding (Wishful T)	255

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Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the List, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

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THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

CODE		CLUB	VALUE
	GOALKEEPER NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m) £

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) ☐
I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth

First Name Surname

Address

Postcode Daytime tel

Cheque/PO no (payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd)

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MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card

Switch (address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above) Signature

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01582 702720

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS					
102	D Seaman	ARS	0	25	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	0	12	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	0	2	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	0	-2	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	6	5	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E De Goey	CHE	0	26	3.2
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	0	0	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	0	8	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	0	9	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	0	17	2.6
113	N Martyn	LEE	0	11	3.1
115	M Beeney	LEE	0	0	2.8
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	0	9	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	0	2.8
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	0	7	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	11	4.0
121	R Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	3	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	0	11	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	0	11	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	-1	-22	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	0	0	2.8
136	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	0	9	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	0	-2	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	0	-7	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	0	7	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	0	0	2.7
132	N Sullivan	WIM	-1	-2	2.5
135	P Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3
FULL BACKS					
203	R Garde	ARS	0	11	3.5
204	L Dixon	ARS	0	35	4.1
205	N Winterburn	ARS	0	26	4.2
260	G Grondin	ARS	0	3	3.4
261	N Vivas	ARS	0	6	3.7
209	A Wright	AST	0	15	3.7
211	G Croft	BLA	0	0	3.2
248	C Davidson	BLA	0	10	3.1
262	J Kenna	BLA	0	1	3.5
221	C Powell	CHA	8	1	2.7
240	D Mills	CHA	6	7	2.6
241	M Bowen	CHA	0	0	2.7
242	S Brown	CHA	6	1	2.5
243	A Barness	CHA	0	-1	2.5
803	P Konchesky	CHA	3	3	2.5
210	A Ferrer	CHE	0	20	3.7
212	G Le Saux	CHE	0	15	4.0
215	C Babayaro	CHE	0	32	3.5
218	F Sinclair	CHE	0	10	3.3
217	M Hall	COV	0	0	2.7
219	R Nilsson	COV	0	7	2.9
231	D Burrows	COV	0	-5	2.9
247	I Brightwell	COV	0	0	2.8
267	M Edworthy	COV	0	-1	2.9
220	R Kozluk	DER	0	0	2.8
223	S Schnoor	DER	0	18	2.8
287	S Elliott	DER	0	1	2.6
295	T Dorigo	DER	0	14	2.8
249	J O'Kane	EVE	0	0	2.9
258	T Thomas	EVE	0	0	2.7
256	M Ball	EVE	0	32	2.8
271	A Cleland	EVE	0	20	2.9
272	T Phelan	EVE	0	0	2.8
286	M Ward	EVE	0	-3	3.0
802	A Farley	EVE	0	-1	2.6
214	D Granville	LEE	0	5	3.5
224	I Harte	LEE	0	21	3.4
225	D Robertson	LEE	0	0	3.3
226	G Kelly	LEE	0	0	3.9
227	L Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.6
235	R Ullathorne	LEI	0	13	3.0
237	R Savage	LEI	0	3	3.3
238	S Guppy	LEI	0	27	3.6
228	J McAteer	LIV	0	2	4.2
229	S Harkness	LIV	0	1	3.8
230	R Jones	LIV	0	0	3.6
232	S Bjornebye	LIV	0	9	3.8
250	V Heggem	LIV	0	15	3.9
236	D Irwin	MAN	0	22	4.3
283	J Curtis	MAN	0	-1	3.5
284	P Neville	MAN	0	7	4.3
285	G Neville	MAN	0	17	4.5
294	W Brown	MAN	0	2	3.6
252	C Fleming	MID	0	9	3.0
253	V Kinder	MID	0	3	3.0
254	C Harrison	MID	0	0	2.8
255	D Gordon	MID	0	22	3.2
259	G Lombardi	MID	0	0	2.9
268	R Stockdale	MID	0	8	2.8
244	N Solano	NEW	0	24	3.3
246	A Griffin	NEW	0	2	3.2
273	S Watson	NEW	0	11	3.4
274	W Barton	NEW	0	10	3.4
276	L Charvet	NEW	0	11	3.3
280	C Serrant	NEW	0	-1	3.2
281	A Pistone	NEW	0	-3	3.5
298	D Domi	NEW	0	-1	3.3
290	D Lyttle	NOT	0	-5	2.9
291	A Rogers	NOT	-1	-8	3.0
292	T Bonalair	NOT	0	-6	3.1
293	M Louis-Jean	NOT	0	-2	2.7
801	S Stensaas	NOT	-1	2	2.7
202	E Barrett	SHE	0	-1	2.8
268	A Hinchcliffe	SHE	0	25	3.2
269	J Cobian	SHE	0	2	2.8
279	I Nolan	SHE	0	0	2.8
289	L Briscoe	SHE	0	6	2.6
239	J Beresford	SOU	0	0	2.8
263	J Dodd	SOU	0	1	2.8
288	P Warner	SOU	0	-4	2.5
297	P Colleter	SOU	0	-1	2.6
251	C Wilson	TOT	0	0	3.0
264	S Carr	TOT	0	16	3.1
265	P Tramezzani	TOT	0	-2	3.2
270	J Edinburgh	TOT	0	8	2.9
296	M Taricco	TOT	0	3	3.3
206	S Potts	WES	0	-1	3.0
233	S Lazaridis	WES	0	0	3.2
234	A Impey	WES	0	11	3.1
299	S Minto	WES	0	-3	3.1
275	D Jupp	WIM	0	-2	2.6
277	B Thatcher	WIM	-1	4	2.9
278	A Kimble	WIM	0	4	2.9
282	K Cunningham	WIM	-1	0	3.0
CENTRE BACKS					
305	S Bould	ARS	0	12	3.8
307	T Adams	ARS	0	24	4.4
322	M Keown	ARS	0	42	4.1
337	G Grimandi	ARS	0	6	3.6
347	M Upson	ARS	0	1	3.4
301	U Ehiogu	AST	0	24	3.7
303	G Southgate	AST	0	16	3.6
304	R Scimeca	AST	0	6	3.3
329	G Barry	AST	0	11	3.1
353	S Peres	BLA	0	2	3.3
354	D Peacock	BLA	0	1	3.3
355	S Henchoz	BLA	0	0	3.4
374	M Broomes	BLA	0	3	2.8
308	R Rufus	CHA	0	-7	2.7
309	E Youds	CHA	0	-4	2.6
356	B Lambourde	CHE	0	6	3.4
365	M Desailly	CHE	0	19	3.8
366	M Duberry	CHE	0	15	3.5
370	A Myers	CHE	0	0	3.3
381	F Leboeuf	CHE	0	35	4.2
357	G Breen	COV	0	0	3.0
384	P Williams	COV	0	4	2.9
387	R Shaw	COV	0	4	2.8
388	L Daish	COV	0	0	2.8
903	M Konjic	COV	0	0	2.7
311	J Laursen	DER	0	13	2.9
312	I Stimac	DER	0	8	3.0
313	R Delap	DER	0	15	2.7
314	HA Carbonari	DER	0	20	3.1
326	C Dailly	DER	0	-1	3.0
306	S Bilic	EVE	0	2	3.1
323	D Unsworth	EVE	0	20	3.1
324	D Watson	EVE	0	15	2.9
325	C Tiler	EVE	6	7	3.0
327	C Short	EVE	0	7	2.9
328	M Materazzi	EVE	0	9	3.0
348	R Dunne	EVE	0	11	2.7
330	L Radebe	LEE	0	15	3.5
331	M Hiden	LEE	0	14	3.4
332	J Woodgate	LEE	0	7	3.2
380	D Wetherall	LEE	0	2	3.6
398	R Molenaar	LEE	0	20	3.4
334	G Taggart	LEI	0	3	3.2
335	P Kaamark	LEI	0	-3	3.3
336	S Walsh	LEI	0	14	3.3
338	M Elliott	LEI	0	24	3.9
389	S Prior	LEI	0	19	3.1
302	S Staunton	LIV	0	6	4.1
320	P Babb	LIV	0	6	3.7
375	D Matteo	LIV	0	3	3.6
376	F Kippe	LIV	0	0	3.4
399	ST Kvarme	LIV	0	0	3.5
902	R Song	LIV	0	0	3.8
321	H Berg	MAN	0	6	3.9
368	D May	MAN	0	0	3.9
382	J Stam	MAN	0	18	4.5
383	R Johnsen	MAN	0	17	4.1
339	G Pallister	MID	0	10	3.2
343	G Festa	MID	0	9	3.1
344	S Vickers	MID	0	5	3.0
340	S Pearce	NEW	0	3	3.2
341	S Howey	NEW	0	2	3.3
342	N Dabizas	NEW	0	11	3.4
345	A Hughes	NEW	0	-3	3.0
361	P Albert	NEW	0	4	3.5
349	C Edwards	NOT	0	-1	2.6
350	C Cooper	NOT	0	9	3.2
351	S Chettle	NOT	0	-11	3.0
352	JO Hjelde	NOT	2	-15	2.9
371	J Mattsson	NOT	0	-8	2.8
901	G Doig	NOT	0	-3	2.6
358	P Atherton	SHE	0	21	2.9
359	G Sedloski	SHE	0	0	2.7
360	D Walker	SHE	0	16	2.8
362	D Stefanovic	SHE	0	2	2.7
364	J Newsome	SHE	0	-1	2.8
317	K Monkou	SOU	0	-2	2.7
385	F Benali	SOU	0	-4	2.7
386	R Dryden	SOU	0	3	2.5
391	C Lundekvam	SOU	0	-5	2.6
394	S Marshall	SOU	0	-5	2.7
395	S Hiley	SOU	0	-9	2.5
397	G Monk	SOU	0	-6	2.5
346	C Calderwood	TOT	0	11	3.1
373	J Scales	TOT	0	6	3.0
377	L Young	TOT	0	3	2.7
378	S Campbell	TOT	0	27	3.3
396	R Vega	TOT	0	9	3.4
315	J Dicks	WES	0	3	3.3
319	I Pearce	WES	3	4	3.1
363	R Hall	WES	0	0	2.9
367	J Margas	WES	0	-6	3.2
369	N Ruddock	WES	0	3	3.0
393	R Ferdinand	WES	0	8	3.2
372	C Perry	WIM	-1	-2	3.1
390	B McAllister	WIM	0	0	2.8
392	D Blackwell	WIM	-1	-2	2.9
MIDFIELDERS					
405	E Petit	ARS	0	8	4.4
406	M Overmars	ARS	0	19	5.6
416	R Parlour	ARS	0	11	4.0
420	P Vieira	ARS	0	5	4.1
424	F Ljungberg	ARS	0	3	6.5
425	S Hughes	ARS	0	7	3.5
407	M Draper	AST	0	0	3.7
408	S Grayson	AST	0	0	3.3
410	A Thompson	AST	0	4	4.5
411	F [illegible]	AST	0	0	3.6
413	L Hendrie	AST	0	16	3.7
535	I Taylor	AST	0	11	3.6
415	B McKinlay	BLA	0	0	3.2
417	J Wilcox	BLA	0	4	4.0
419	D Duff	BLA	0	4	4.2
421	J Corbett	BLA	0	0	3.3
422	T Sherwood	BLA	0	11	4.1
423	D Johnson	BLA	0	7	3.1
426	O Kenda	BLA	0	0	3.3
427	D Marcolin	BLA	0	3	3.6
428	D Dunn	BLA	0	7	3.1
575	G Flitcroft	BLA	0	10	3.3
499	S Parker	CHA	0	2	3.0
501	K Jones	CHA	3	5	3.1
502	M Kinsella	CHA	0	8	3.5
504	M Holmes	CHA	0	0	3.2
505	S Newton	CHA	0	2	3.3
506	J Robinson	CHA	0	4	3.2
507	N Redfearn	CHA	2	8	4.1
508	P Mortimer	CHA	0	5	3.4
401	M Nicholls	CHE	0	0	3.3
404	P Hughes	CHE	0	0	3.1
429	J Morris	CHE	0	2	3.2
430	R Di Matteo	CHE	0	11	4.4
433	B Goldbaek	CHE	0	2	3.9
434	D Petrescu	CHE	0	12	4.3
435	E Newton	CHE	0	0	3.1
437	G Poyet	CHE	0	25	4.9
439	D Wise	CHE	0	6	3.8
465	G McAllister	COV	0	5	3.9
584	L Delorge	COV	0	0	3.5
588	B Quinn	COV	0	2	3.2
589	P Hall	COV	0	0	3.8
590	P Telfer	COV	0	3	3.5
591	N Whelan	COV	0	20	4.4
592	TE Soltvedt	COV	0	7	3.4
593	W Boland	COV	0	0	3.0
594	G Boateng	COV	0	7	3.3
595	P Clement	COV	0	2	3.5
596	G Strachan	COV	0	0	3.1
598	S Shilton	COV	0	0	3.0
599	S Froggatt	COV	0	13	3.7
440	D Powell	DER	0	4	3.2
442	S Eranio	DER	0	0	3.8
443	L Carsley	DER	0	5	3.1
444	F Baiano	DER	0	3	5.2
445	K Harper	DER	0	5	3.7
446	J Hunt	DER	0	3	3.4
479	L Bohinen	DER	0	2	3.6
403	G Farrelly	EVE	0	0	3.2
414	T Grant	EVE	0	0	3.1
418	D Williamson	EVE	0	0	3.2
447	J Oster	EVE	0	0	3.4
448	N Barmby	EVE	0	5	4.8
449	O Dacourt	EVE	0	0	3.6
450	J Collins	EVE	0	3	4.6
570	D Hutchison	EVE	0	6	4.0
458	W Korsten	LEE	0	0	3.5
459	H Kewell	LEE	0	28	4.4
468	L Bowyer	LEE	0	20	3.9
480	AI Haaland	LEE	0	0	3.6
481	B Ribeiro	LEE	0	3	3.8
482	G Halle	LEE	0	6	3.3
522	D Hopkin	LEE	0	12	3.7
532	S McPhail	LEE	0	4	3.1
452	N Lennon	LEI	0	4	3.5
453	S Campbell	LEI	0	0	3.1
454	G Parker	LEI	0	0	3.6
460	M Izzet	LEI	0	11	3.8
565	T Zagorakis	LEI	0	7	3.4
412	J Carragher	LIV	0	8	3.3
467	J Redknapp	LIV	0	20	4.2
468	S McManaman	LIV	0	10	5.5
469	P Berger	LIV	0	20	4.4
470	D Thompson	LIV	0	3	3.3
472	S Gerrard	LIV	0	0	3.1
475	JM Ferri	LIV	0	0	3.9
487	D Murphy	LIV	0	0	3.7
490	P Ince	LIV	0	15	4.5
629	O Leonhardsen	LIV	0	0	4.3
483	J Blomqvist	MAN	0	9	5.0
484	N Butt	MAN	0	14	4.1
485	R Giggs	MAN	0	12	5.6
486	P Scholes	MAN	0	31	5.5
491	J Cruyff	MAN	0	8	3.8
492	D Beckham	MAN	0	25	5.9
509	R Keane	MAN	0	3	4.4
510	N Maddison	MID	0	0	3.1
511	A Townsend	MID	0	7	3.6
512	R Mustoe	MID	0	5	3.4
514	P Gascoigne	MID	0	15	4.5
515	P Merson	MID	0	17	4.7
516	A Moore	MID	0	0	3.5
517	P Stamp	MID	0	6	3.4
533	M Summerbell	MID	0	0	3.0
461	G Georgiadis	NEW	0	0	3.9
462	D Batty	NEW	0	0	3.7
463	S Glass	NEW	0	17	3.5
464	G Speed	NEW	0	3	4.3
473	J Barnes	NEW	0	0	3.6
488	P Dalglish	NEW	0	3	3.8
489	K Gillespie	NEW	0	5	4.3
493	G Brady	NEW	0	0	3.3
494	D Hamilton	NEW	0	0	3.3
495	T Ketsbaia	NEW	0	15	3.8
496	R Lee	NEW	0	2	4.2
497	D Hamann	NEW	0	0	3.9
518	N Quashie	NOT	0	2	3.8
519	G Hodges	NOT	0	0	3.3
520	C Bart-Williams	NOT	0	5	3.6
521	S Gemmill	NOT	0	2	3.5
524	G Thomas	NOT	0	0	3.5
526	A Johnson	NOT	0	2	3.7
528	B Stone	NOT	0	5	4.0
527	I Woan	NOT	0	0	3.8
528	C Armstrong	NOT	0	0	3.2
530	A Gray	NOT	0	0	3.4
545	H Porfirio	NOT	0	0	3.6
550	J Harkes	NOT	0	0	3.1
537	N Alexandersson	SHE	0	17	3.5
538	P Rudi	SHE	0	11	3.6
539	G Whittingham	SHE	0	0	3.7
546	D Oakes	SHE	0	0	3.0
547	W Jonk	SHE	0	10	4.3
548	J Magilton	SHE	0	0	3.1
549	D Sonner	SHE	0	2	3.2
562	B Carbone	SHE	0	26	4.7
897	E Thome	SHE	0	4	3.2
500	S Ripley	SOU	0	2	3.9
536	C Palmer	SOU	0	2	3.2
541	D Howells	SOU	0	3	3.2
542	M Le Tissier	SOU	0	21	6.0
543	W Bridge	SOU	0	0	3.0
544	K Gibbens	SOU	0	0	3.0
556	C Marsden	SOU	0	0	3.3
557	M Oakley	SOU	0	10	3.1
498	D Ginola	TOT	0	14	4.8
503	R Fox	TOT	0	8	4.1
523	A Sinton	TOT	0	0	3.4
551	S Clemence	TOT	0	0	3.2
552	S Freund	TOT	0	0	3.9
553	A Nielsen	TOT	0	13	3.7
554	J Dominguez	TOT	0	0	3.5
555	D Anderton	TOT	0	21	4.6
558	M Saib	TOT	0	0	3.6
436	J Moncur	WES	0	0	3.4
561	E Berkovic	WES	2	18	4.8
573	MV Foe	WES	0	0	3.6
574	J Cole	WES	0	0	3.5
576	T Sinclair	WES	2	14	5.1
577	S Lomas	WES	0	3	3.3
578	F Lampard	WES	3	17	3.7
579	M Keller	WES	0	8	3.9
471	M Kennedy	WIM	0	2	3.8
559	R Earle	WIM	0	14	4.1
560	A Roberts	WIM	0	8	3.3
563	N Ardley	WIM	0	0	3.4
580	M Hughes	WIM	0	11	3.5
585	G Ainsworth	WIM	0	0	3.8
586	C Hughes	WIM	0	0	3.3
587	P Fear	WIM	0	0	3.0
FORWARDS					
601	L Boa Morte	ARS	0	0	5.4
602	N Anelka	ARS	0	32	8.0
606	D Bergkamp	ARS	0	29	9.1
617	N Kanu	ARS	0	0	7.7
623	C Wreh	ARS	0	0	5.8
624	K Diawara	ARS	0	0	6.4
645	D Yorke	AST	0	65	8.3
646	J Joachim	AST	0	29	6.2
651	D Vassell	AST	0	0	5.4
652	S Collymore	AST	0	7	8.0
647	C Sutton	BLA	0	13	8.4
648	N Blake	BLA	0	9	6.7
691	M Dahlin	BLA	0	4	5.4
692	A Ward	BLA	0	3	6.9
693	K Gallacher	BLA	0	9	7.5
695	M Jansen	BLA	0	3	6.4
698	K Davies	BLA	0	7	7.4
604	C Mendonca	CHA	0	11	6.5
605	M Bright	CHA	0	3	5.6
607	S Jones	CHA	0	5	5.0
608	A Hunt	CHA	0	17	5.5
616	M Pringle	CHA	3	6	5.2
636	PL Casiraghi	CHE	0	5	7.6
637	TA Flo	CHE	0	25	7.2
639	G Vialli	CHE	0	2	6.6
642	M Forssell	CHE	0	0	5.9
679	G Zola	CHE	0	36	7.4
690	D Huckerby	COV	0	23	7.2
683	D Dublin	COV	0	45	7.9
685	J Aloisi	COV	0	7	6.4
612	D Sturridge	DER	0	22	6.6
625	D Burton	DER	0	15	5.3
694	P Wanchope	DER	0	26	6.8
696	M Christie	DER	0	0	5.0
628	D Cadamarteri	EVE	0	14	5.3
675	I Bakayoko	EVE	0	6	6.7
677	F Jeffers	EVE	0	2	5.1
702	D Ferguson	EVE	0	18	7.5
661	C Wijnhard	LEE	0	10	6.8
662	JF Hasselbaink	LEE	0	43	8.1
671	A Smith	LEE	0	15	5.1
621	S Wilson	LEI	0	0	5.0
622	E Heskey	LEI	0	19	6.8
626	T Cottee	LEI	0	14	5.4
656	A Gunnlaugsson	LEI	0	0	6.1
657	I Marshall	LEI	0	0	5.7
669	G Fenton	LEI	0	0	5.2
618	KH Riedle	LIV	0	17	7.7
619	S Dundee	LIV	0	0	7.0
620	R Fowler	LIV	0	37	9.4
690	M Owen	LIV	0	40	10.5
640	OG Solskjaer	MAN	0	30	8.1
641	A Cole	MAN	0	46	8.7
649	T Sheringham	MAN	0	0	7.5
609	B Deane	MID	0	17	6.5
611	H Ricard	MID	0	29	6.8
613	M Beck	MID	0	17	6.2
615	A Armstrong	MID	0	0	6.0
667	A Andersson	NEW	0	3	6.7
670	A Shearer	NEW	0	25	10.1
676	L Saha	NEW	0	0	6.2
627	M Harewood	NOT	0	5	5.1
629	N Shipperley	NOT	0	2	6.5
630	P Van Hooijdonk	NOT	2	16	7.8
634	JC Darcheville	NOT	0	5	6.1
635	D Freedman	NOT	0	16	6.3
659	R Humphreys	SHE	0	3	5.3
660	A Quinn	SHE	0	0	5.0
663	F Sanetti	SHE	0	0	5.9
664	A Booth	SHE	0	13	6.5
666	P Di Canio	SHE	0	6	7.1
638	M Hughes	SOU	0	2	6.5
665	D Hirst	SOU	0	0	6.1
703	E Ostenstad	SOU	0	24	6.9
704	J Beattie	SOU	0	12	5.2
706	S Basham	SOU	0	3	5.0
707	H Kachloul	SOU	0	12	5.1
650	C Armstrong	TOT	0	20	7.1
658	L Ferdinand	TOT	0	11	8.1
687	S Iversen	TOT	0	12	6.4
686	R Allen	TOT	0	0	5.2
603	I Wright	WES	0	24	7.8
614	J Hartson	WES	0	20	8.2
643	S Abou	WES	0	0	5.8
644	P Kitson	WES	0	9	6.3
672	C Leaburn	WIM	0	8	5.5
681	J Euell	WIM	0	26	5.4
700	M Gayle	WIM	0	33	5.8
701	E Ekoku	WIM	0	6	6.0
705	C Cort	WIM	0	3	5.9

Eliades and a King's ransom

Srikumar Sen meets the boxing promoter out to make Lennox Lewis's fortune

Few rivals of Don King have been able to outwit him. Some promoters have come away from the negotiating table happy in the knowledge that they have put one over on him. In the long term, though, King has always come out on top.

The big man met his match, however, when he came up against a little Londoner, Panos Eliades, 48, the man behind Lennox Lewis. Eliades brought King and Evander Holyfield to talks to make the contest for the undisputed world heavyweight championship between Lewis and Holyfield on March 13 in Madison Square Garden, New York. It took Eliades two years to complete the deal. At the end, for once, King had to agree to a promotion with no strings attached, forgoing his usual stipulation that he would gain control over Lewis's immediate future in the ring should his man, Holyfield, win.

Furthermore, the American promoter has the job of making the show a success and the more successful it is, the more Lewis will make over and above his purse of $10 million. It is the biggest event involving a British boxer and if Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, wins, Eliades will almost certainly become the most important man in world heavyweight boxing. Quite an achievement for an accountant who did not want to be involved in the sport just eight years ago.

"HBO [Home Box Office] tell me I will be the most powerful man in boxing," Eliades said. "Seth Abraham [the head of Time Warner Sport, the parent company of HBO] said: 'You had better leave your [insolvency] practice to your top people for the next couple of years, because you will be the most powerful man in boxing in the world.'"

Victory could put Lewis on the road to a fortune worth $200 million; defeat could cost him the $80 million he stands to make from his contract with HBO, who would have the right to tear up their deal with him. No matter how confident Lewis is of winning his contest against the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion — and he could have made his $80 million without facing Holyfield — he is taking an enormous financial gamble.



Eight years ago, Eliades did not want to get involved in boxing; now he could become the most important man in the sport

"It's all because Lennox wants to bring the world heavyweight title back to Britain," Eliades said. "It's a case of who dares wins. Ninety-nine per cent of fighters would pick up the $80 million first, but that's never been Lennox's way. This step is consistent with everything he's done."

When Eliades started out in boxing, he had no idea that the sums would be so large. In 1991, he had been advised by Roger Levitt, his neighbour in North London and Lewis's former backer, to invest in Lewis. Eliades ignored him at first. It was only when Levitt mentioned it again that Eliades decided to take the risk.

"I did not want to get involved in boxing," he said. "I thought it was a bit of a sport for gangsters. Then Roger convinced me that, with a couple of hundred thousand pounds, I could make Lennox world heavyweight champion and earn a lot of money.

"I did not tell my wife of my intentions to put in £200,000 because she said: 'I don't want you to invest in that type of sport. I don't want you to get involved in shady deals. Don't you dare get involved.'

"It was all done behind her back. I invested money just before the Gary Mason fight without realising Mason was the favourite. Had Lennox lost, I would have lost my money. When I sat down to watch that fight I said to myself: 'What the hell have you done?'

"It was not until the Razor Ruddock fight, a year and a half later, that she found out. At that time, I stood to lose £1.8 million. When she saw me jumping for joy . . . she knew I was a little more than just a bystander."

RAY STUBBLEBINE

Lewis, right, is taking an enormous financial gamble when he takes on Holyfield in New York next month

Eliades concentrates on his practice in the mornings and looks after boxing in the afternoons and evenings. "I work four hours liquidation, 14 hours boxing a day," he said. "Financially, my business is consistent every year for the next 20 years. I can earn, say, £1.5 million every year as long as I live. With boxing, it's not consistent. I make more money than in my other job in one hit. Lennox and I could earn $250 million with the right fights, like an Evander rematch — a [Mike] Tyson fight, if Tyson comes back."

Eliades was always confident of signing a contract advantageous to Lewis because he already had three significant victories over King. He outmanoeuvred the American in 1993 into paying well over the odds, $12 million, to Lewis to fight Tony Tucker; then, when King was beaten in court over trying to sideline Lewis's claim to a title bout with Tyson: finally, when King paid Lewis $4 million to release Tyson from the bout with him that the New Jersey court had ordered. "[Frank] Bruno received $4 million to fight Tyson; we got $4 million not to fight Tyson," Eliades said.

The new contract was complicated because of the number of parties involved. First, Eliades agreed a deal with King, who then had to sell it to Holyfield. After the boxers had signed, King met representatives of HBO, which had guaranteed the promotion $18 million. When they settled their side, all four groups put their signatures to one contract.

"Don wants to dominate, but so do I," Eliades said. "I was successful because of my two hats. It's always good to know you don't need boxing to eat your daily meal or pay your mortgage.

"I knew the match was going to be made eventually.

> 'I thought at first it was a bit of a sport for gangsters'

They couldn't keep avoiding Lennox. It was only a question of when King would move and what he would want for himself. He wanted to keep Holyfield as a carrot for Tyson, but when Tyson left him, he realised he would have to come to us."

The prospect of moving into King's position in the promoters' rankings does not excite Eliades. Sitting in his boardroom in Bloomsbury Square, the London-born accountant said that he would be happy to be successful in Britain and Europe in boxing and maintain his bread and butter liquidation business.

"I can't believe I'll be bigger than King," he said. "King is King, even if he is complaining at the moment that he'll be working for 'The Greek' for the next ten years. He has even brought Helen of Troy and the Trojan Horse into it. 'Beware the trickeration of Greeks bearing gifts,' he claims."

Eliades smiled at the thought of the world's greatest promoter having to settle for a promotion without futures.

SNOOKER

Higgins gives masterclass in will to win

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS has won ten world-ranking events, including the world championship, but, by beating Ken Doherty 10-8 in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre on Sunday night, he passed arguably his sternest examination of character.

At the end of a day when past — in the form of a parade of former Masters champions to mark the silver anniversary of the tournament — met present, Higgins underlined his credentials to be regarded as the natural successor to Stephen Hendry, his compatriot, as the most prominent figure in snooker.

On many occasions, Higgins has steamrollered opponents, dominating matches and whole events from the outset. On the way to winning his world title in Sheffield ten months ago, the unassuming 23-year-old from Wishaw compiled an unprecedented 14 century breaks and was in top gear throughout.

Yet, in many respects, the manner in which victory was achieved at Wembley will provide even greater satisfaction and confidence for he won despite, by his own admission, performing well below his best. After recovering from 8-6 down and surviving a barrage of points-scoring from Doherty over a four-frame spell, Higgins was justifiably proud of himself. "To win here is fantastic, but to get there by the route I took really boosts your self-belief," he said.

"I've been lucky enough to have a lot of highlights over the past three or four years, but this has to be right up there with the very best of them. When my career is over, I'll look back on nights like this and remember just how good I felt."

Two years after Steve Davis evoked memories of his heyday by rallying from 8-4 adrift to beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 10-8 and 12 months on from a dramatic 10-9 win for Mark Williams over Hendry on a re-spotted black, the climax to the Masters again proved to be an absorbing affair.

With the exception of the third frame, which was stolen by Higgins on the black with a clearance of 66, the opening session was somewhat low-key. It ended 4-4 and when play resumed, both players responded positively to the atmosphere generated by a full house of 2,500 inside the largest auditorium to host a professional event.

Doherty, whose profile has slipped since his unexpected success at the 1997 world championship, looked set to become the first Irish winner of the Masters since Dennis Taylor in 1987 when he impressively transformed a 6-4 deficit into a 8-6 lead.

During this purple patch, Doherty compiled breaks of 90, 109, 59 and 95, but he could not sustain such excellence. Higgins replied with a run of 64 in the fifteenth frame and efficiently added the next three to take the trophy back to Scotland for the eighth time since 1989.



Higgins: boosted self-belief

No ranking points were at stake at Wembley, but Higgins has the opportunity to exploit the injection of confidence administered there when he competes in the Scottish Open at Aberdeen this week, the fifth of nine world-ranking tournaments during the 1998/99 campaign.

Willie Thorne, 45 next month, struck a blow for the older generation yesterday by whitewashing Andy Hicks, a former world, United Kingdom and Masters semi-finalist, 5-0 in the first round.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sheffield forward charged

By Christopher Irvine

DARREN TURNER, the Sheffield Eagles forward, can expect no sympathy today from the Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary committee, which has banned him once this season and has little option but to suspend him again for a dreadful challenge on Gary Broadbent, of Salford Reds, in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie on Saturday.

Turner was sent to the sin-bin in the fourth-round match, which Sheffield, the holders, lost 16-6. The RFL operational board viewed the incident on video yesterday and charged him with misconduct.

As he left the field, Turner made an obscene gesture to the crowd, which was picked up by the BBC cameras and for which he faces a possible separate ban for bringing the game into disrepute when the board of directors meets on Thursday to consider a formal hearing. It follows a specific warning to clubs ten days ago, after a rise in complaints about players making gestures.

Turner, 25, served a one-match suspension for a reckless tackle during a pre-season match against Wakefield Trinity last month.

The operational board took no further action against David Watson, of Sheffield, who was put on report for another challenge on Broadbent in the same match, but it did refer Apollo Perelini, of St Helens, to the disciplinary committee for an alleged high tackle in the tie at Hunslet.

A third player due before the committee today — Barrie McDermott, the Leeds Rhinos prop — can expect at least to miss the home tie with St Helens on Saturday week.

Wakefield, who will play some JJB Super League matches at Barnsley Football Club, have refused to switch the fifth-round tie on Sunday week against Bradford Bulls from their dilapidated Belle Vue ground, where they are trying to increase the 6,500 capacity.

BASKETBALL

Brawl trio are punished

By Nicholas Harling

DERBY Storm have taken the brunt of the blame for the brawl last month that caused their Budweiser League game away to Chester Jets to be abandoned after 28 seconds.

Two of their players — Yorick Williams, 23, the England international, and Rico Alderson, 22, a forward from Tennessee — have been suspended until the end of the season. Shawn Hartley, 31, the Chester Jets player, who was also involved in the fighting, which took place after he and Williams had been ejected from the match, has received a seven-game ban. He will be available, therefore, for Chester's last four league fixtures of the season.

All three players were found guilty of serious misconduct by a joint commission of the English Basket Ball Association and the league. Both clubs were also fined £1,000, suspended subject to good conduct, until the end of the season.

Tony Ironmonger, the Derby general manager, was unhappy at the length of the suspensions. "They are harsh," he said. "These are two young boys coming straight out of college without all the tools of life."

Six other players, three from each club, encroached on court but escaped censure. "They were stepping between people, trying to be helpful," Mike Smith, the league's chief executive, said yesterday.



Donewald: bad timing

The punishment, which was decided after the commission had looked at the incident, via video, in three separate phases, will severely affect Derby's chances of capturing their first honour, the Uni-ball Trophy. As the suspensions do not come into force until next Monday, Williams and Alderson will be able to play in the second leg of the semi-final away to Leicester Riders on Thursday, but, should the Storm retain their 13-point advantage, both players would miss the final on March 13 — assuming that any appeals are unsuccessful.

Williams, who was hoping to play for England against Belarus in a European championship qualifying match next Wednesday, said yesterday that he will appeal.

The disciplinary measures have come at the worst possible time for Bob Donewald, the Derby coach, who has just completed a two-game ban himself and is appealing against another suspension of the same duration.

Lakers close in on Rodman

Devlin Barrett focuses on the latest movements and results in the NBA

DENNIS RODMAN is close to signing with the Los Angeles Lakers and may play for the team as early as tonight, according to team sources.

Rodman, perhaps the game's greatest and most controversial rebounder, has been absent from the National Basketball Association (NBA) since the shortened season began two weeks ago. The cross-dressing, publicity-mad Rodman played alongside Michael Jordan last year with the Chicago Bulls, the NBA champions, but the team decided not to pursue Rodman after Jordan retired.

Rodman has played in five of the past ten NBA championship-winning teams. Earlier in the season, he was linked with Orlando or Miami, but both teams eventually declined his services.

Given his mercurial temper, the Lakers probably will not count on Rodman playing for them until he is on court in a uniform. If he does sign, Rodman would give the Lakers, already heavy favourites to win the championship this year, a huge boost.

Yet, just as one star prepares to re-enter the game, another has been sidelined due to injury. Charles Barkley, of the Houston Rockets, will miss up to four weeks for surgery on his left knee.

The Rockets are one of the few teams in the NBA's lockout-shortened season that might be able to absorb the month-long absence of a key player, having just acquired Scottie Pippin, Jordan's other famous former team-mate.

On Sunday night, the Lakers met the Indiana Pacers in a match-up of the two teams most-picked to meet in the finals. Led by Reggie Miller, Indiana surged in the final minutes to win 101-99.

Shaquille O'Neal, the Lakers centre, scored 36 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, but Miller contributed 20 of his 26 points during the second half.

O'Neal said that he was unhappy with the poor start of his team. "I'm very dissatisfied. We shouldn't be 3-3," he said.

In Chicago, the Bulls, reduced to Toni Kukoc and a cast of unknowns, lost 89-76 to the San Antonio Spurs. In Orlando, the Milwaukee Bucks suffered their first defeat of the season, 85-82 to the Magic. In Oakland, the Golden State Warriors notched their first win of the season, 105-100 against the Portland Trail Blazers.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.nba.com/

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

At only one of the four tables in the 1998 Gold Cup semi-final did the North-South pair reach this laydown Seven Spades.

Dealer South   Game all   IMPs

North: ♠ A K 8 5 4 ♥ – ♦ K 10 ♣ K Q 8 6 3 2

West: ♠ Q ♥ K Q 9 4 ♦ J 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ J

East: ♠ J ♥ A J 10 8 7 6 5 3 ♦ Q ♣ 10 9 7

South: ♠ 10 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ A 5 4

S	W	N	E
Schapiro	*Simpson*	*Gordon*	*Hallberg*
Pass	Pass	1 C	3 H
3 S	4 H	4 NT	Pass
5 H	Pass	6 S	All Pass

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: five of diamonds.

This was the sequence when my teammates were North-South. It was suggested afterwards that North should have bid Six Hearts over West's Four Hearts. Clearly that would show a heart void and willingness to play at least Six Spades; then South might be able to value his two aces for Seven Spades. Somehow these educated sequences seem clearer after the event than at the table.

The only pair to bid the slam with any degree of confidence were John Short and Ron Oakford, for the Soper team. This was their sequence:

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1 C	3 H
3 S	4 H	5 H	Pass
6 C	Pass	7 S	All Pass

Five Hearts was "Exclusion Blackwood". That asks South to announce how many aces he has, excluding the ace of hearts. The first step above Five Hearts shows none, the second one and so on. Thus North-South were able to bid the slam with certainty; they had clearly done their homework on this type of auction, unlike the other three more experienced pairs.

The inter-county teams of eight championship for the Tollemache Cup was won by Hants & Isle of Wight (D.Huggett, S.Preston, D.Bird, J.Baker, A.Hughes, S.Lee, J.Pottage, G.Allen, P.Goodman, M.Hill-Jones, npc S.Auchterlonie).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LATION
a. Movement
b. Courtly obeisance
c. A bulwark in a fosse

MOFF
a. A soft wimp
b. A calliper compass
c. A type of moth

LAGAN
a. A kind of rock
b. An embroidery stitch
c. Wreckage

MITCHELLA
a. A tart
b. A type of steel
c. A trailing herb

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Shirov's successes

In the wake of Alexei Shirov's press statement concerning his aborted challenge to Garry Kasparov I give today two of Shirov's wins from the recently concluded tournament at Wijk aan Zee in Holland. Shirov's style is enterprising, but he lacks solidity. In view of that, and his very poor score against Kasparov, his assertion in his press statement that "I feel ready to beat Kasparov in the match play" might be considered somewhat over-optimistic.

Here are two of Shirov's wins from Wijk aan Zee.

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Alex Yermolinsky
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	Bf5
4	Nc3	e6
5	g4	Bg6
6	Nge2	c5
7	h4	h5
8	Nf4	Bh7
9	Nxh5	cxd4
10	Nb5	Nc6
11	Nxd4	Nxd4
12	Qxd4	Ne7
13	Qa4+	Nc6
14	Bg5	Qa5+
15	Qxa5	Nxa5
16	f4	Rc8
17	Bb5+	Nc6
18	0-0-0	a6
19	Bd3	Bxd3
20	Rxd3	Nb4
21	Rb3	Rxc2+
22	Kb1	Rg2
23	Rc1	d4
24	a3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Dmitri Reinderman
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Sicilian Defence

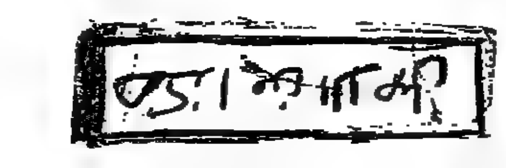
1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Nc3	e6
4	d4	cxd4
5	Nxd4	a6
6	Be2	Nge7
7	f4	Nxd4
8	Qxd4	b5
9	0-0	Qc7
10	Qf2	Nc6
11	Be3	Be7
12	a4	b4
13	Nb1	Rb8
14	Nd2	0-0
15	Bd3	d6
16	Rad1	b3
17	cxb3	Bf6
18	Rc1	Bxb2
19	Rc2	Ba3
20	e5	d5
21	Nf3	Qd7
22	Bxh7+	Kxh7
23	Qh4+	Kg8
24	Ng5	Re8
25	Rf3	Ne7
26	Qh7+	Kf8
27	Qh8+	Ng8
28	f5	exf5
29	e6	fxe6
30	Rg3	g6
31	Nh7+	Kf7
32	Bh6	Ke7
33	Bg5+	Kf7
34	Bf6	Rf8
35	Rc7	Nxf6
36	Qxf6+	Ke8
37	Qxg6+	Kd8
38	Rxd7+	Bxd7
39	Nxf8	Bxf8
40	Qf6+	Be7
41	Rg8+	Kc7
42	Qc3+	Kb7
43	Rxb8+	Kxb8
44	h4	Black resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Midivani — Yakovleva, Israel 1998. White would like to move his knight on g7, giving a discovered check to the black king. However, at the moment, his queen is attacked. How did he resolve this dilemma?

Solution on page 46



FOOTBALL

Keegan has qualities needed to revitalise England

By Kevin McCarra

As a teenager with a part-time job in a Coventry garage, Kevin Keegan was overly zealous and could not tell when to stop as he rubbed down the filler while repairing bodywork. His employers, who switched him to sweeping the floor instead, may have been the first to remark that he always goes too far. If Kevin Keegan proceeds to take the eminent post of England manager, he will find himself being chided in just those terms once again.

This is a country in which a trace of romanticism is treated as contamination. Keegan's idealism is taken as a flaw and its capacity to enrich the game is disregarded completely. An adverse judgment was passed on him in 1996 when Newcastle United, having held a 12-point lead at one stage, were beaten to the FA Carling Premiership title by Manchester United. How galling it must be for Keegan to find himself patronised as naive and a failure.

Tedious facts are soon forgotten and few are prepared to acknowledge that the greatest element of all in that duel was the 13 victories and a single draw that Alex Ferguson's side produced in their last 15 matches. The more vivid memory is of Keegan delivering that televised tirade against Manchester United. It was then, supposedly, that he lost the plot and the championship.

Keegan can, indeed, be a bothead, but it was the high temperature of his personality that turned St James' Park into a cauldron. The ground, despite the recent, modest revival, has been a lukewarm place ever since he left in 1997. His labours there are due for reappraisal and so, too, is the case that his critics attempt to bring against him.

All of Keegan's weaknesses contain merits. His actions can be memorably thin-skinned and on one return as a television commentator to The Dell, where he had loaned his distinction to Southampton in a splendid late phase of his playing career, he was denied entry to the car park by an attendant. Keegan's response was to drive off and leave the broadcast to a hastily summoned replacement.

The impetuousness is not to be divorced from the intensity that can enliven a club. He brought Newcastle, and many of its players, to a higher level of consciousness.

Those who think him flighty and temperamental had better recall that he spent five years as manager at St James' Park. Kenny Dalglish, his successor lasted less than two and Ruud Gullit is unlikely ever to become an honorary Geordie.

Keegan began by hauling Newcastle back by their braces as they were about to fall into the old third division. In his last full season, failure took the form of that barnstorming, if unavailing, assault on the championship. The costs of the transformation mounted, with Alan Shearer bought in 1996 for a then world-record fee of £15 million, but the craftiness with which Keegan manoeuvred is too often ignored.

He not only signed two valuable players, in Andy Cole and Peter Beardsley, but visualised the partnership in which each was the perfect setting for the other. Keegan also possessed an insight into the best deployment of men whose gifts were misunderstood. Robert Lee, a journeyman right winger for nine years at Charlton Athletic, was given the central midfield role and went on, against all expectation, to turn into an England international.

Keegan's astuteness is underestimated. Having been rejected by Coventry City as a youngster because he was deemed to be too small, he went on to build not only muscle, but also, and more importantly, his understanding of the game. Few forwards have been cleverer at leading bigger opponents into areas where the advantage lay with nimbleness and his destruction of a man-marker, the great Berti Vogts, was the key to Liverpool's triumph when they beat Borussia Mönchengladbach in the 1977 European Cup final.

The years with SV Hamburg, where he twice won the European Footballer of the Year award, extended his education. It was not blind folly that prevented him from turning Newcastle into a cautious, dull outfit that might have edged their way to a trophy. Keegan possesses intelligence, but it is conditioned by his principles. None of the derision encountered has broken his belief that football should be thrilling entertainment.

If that policy is now intolerable, it may be the sport, and not Keegan, that is in difficulties. The statistics, in any case, are not quite so damning as is generally imagined. That spellbinding 4-3 defeat at Liverpool in April 1996 is viewed as proof of profligacy, but it is a misconception to assert that Newcastle always operated an open-door policy in defence. The side conceded 37 goals that season, just two more than Manchester United.

In fairness, one cannot readily imagine him rising eagerly to spend a wet winter's morning fine-tuning his back four's offside trap. He was shrewd enough, though, to recognise the boundaries of his management style and, after listening to the pleas of Darren Peacock, then centre half at Newcastle, eventually brought in Mark Lawrenson to coach the defence.

Should he follow Glenn Hoddle into the England post, Keegan will have assistants to whom he can delegate specialised duties. In any case, there is less need for a course of instruction when, for example, Tony Adams, Gareth Southgate and Sol Campbell are available to form the rearguard. England stand in need not so much of tactical refinement as of a rekindling of the imagination.

Keegan, worn down by the incessant strain at Newcastle, might relish the intermittent nature of the international programme and, as he has demonstrated at Fulham, still excels at inspiring footballers and strengthening their sense of their own worth.

To achieve that at Newcastle in 1992, he improved facilities and began by fumigating the training ground complex. England's pristine premises are not in need of such extreme treatment, but there, too, Keegan might create a healthier atmosphere.



Keegan in full flow during that infamous television interview in which he launched an attack on Manchester United

SKY SPORTS

KEEGAN'S PREVIOUS FORM

NEWCASTLE UNITED (1992-1997): Complete record (in all competitions): Played 257 Won 13[illegible], Drawn [illegible], Lost 65, For 498, Against 285. Breakdown: League: Played 205 Won 114, Drawn 41, Lost 50, For 380 Against 210. FA Cups Played 15 Won 8, Drawn 5, Lost 4, For 23, Against [illegible]. League Cups Played 20 Won 12, Drawn 3, Lost 5, For [illegible], Against 18. Uefa Cup: Played 10 Won [illegible], Drawn 1, Lost [illegible], For 27, Against 11. Anglo-Italian Cup: Played [illegible] Won [illegible], Drawn 3, Lost 2, For 9, Against 9. Charity Shield: Played [illegible] Won 0, Drawn 0, Lost 1, For 0, Against 4.

FULHAM (1998-99): Complete record (in all competitions): Played 43 Won 25, Drawn 8, Lost [illegible], For [illegible], Against 36. Breakdown: League: Played 30 Won 16, Drawn [illegible], Lost 6, For 42, Against 23. FA Cups: Played [illegible] Won [illegible], Drawn 2, Lost 1, For 11, Against 5. League Cups Played 5 Won [illegible], Drawn 1, Lost 1, For 7, Against 8. Auto Windscreens Shield: Played 1 Won 0, Drawn 0, Lost 1, For 1 Against [illegible].

Wimbledon search for happy ending

By Russell Kempson

IT ALL began on January 16 in a flurry of bitterness and recrimination, with David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur winger, falling to ground in pursuit of a penalty — not once, but four times. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, put on his most pained expression and lambasted the Frenchman for what he perceived as no more than theatrical deceit.

Part one of the five-match league-and-cup series between Tottenham and Wimbledon, compressed into 32 days, had not made the most promising of starts. No goals, four bookings and plenty of hot air in an FA Carling Premiership encounter of little worthiness. Mike Riley, the referee, was not amused by Ginola's antics, either, and deemed that none of his tumbles merited a spot kick. Riley was similarly unimpressed by John Hartson's shin-gouging tackle on Andy Sinton, the Tottenham winger, and booked the Wimbledon debutant.

The fare was grim, the mood foreboding. Perhaps surprisingly, the subsequent three episodes have been acted out in a climate of mutual respect. Familiarity appears not to have bred contempt — only four more cautions have been accrued — and the fixtures, apart from Tottenham's 3-0 win in the FA Cup fourth-round replay, have often lacked invention and sparkle.

Tonight, when the series concludes with the Worthington Cup semi-final second leg at Selhurst Park, it could be back to square one. Wembley beckons for the victors, after a 0-0 draw in the first leg, and neither side is likely to pass up the opportunity without the fiercest of scraps. It might not be an evening for connoisseurs of fine football or the faint of heart. Tottenham hold the psychological and statistical high ground, with George Graham's arrival as manager in October having coincided with an upsurge in fortunes.

They are unbeaten in their past 11 matches and are undefeated in ten cup matches this season, having scored 25 goals. Wimbledon are without a victory in six outings and have scored only one goal in that period.

Kinnear is never usually happy unless he has something to moan about, but the injury problems afflicting his side have tested his patience to the full. A weekend away in Marlow, where his squad used the England training facilities at Bisham Abbey, has hardly eased his problems. Efan Ekoku and Michael Hughes are missing tonight, while Marcus Gayle, Neal Ardley, Ben Thatcher, Carl Leaburn and Duncan Jupp are rated as doubtful. Hartson is cup-tied. Tottenham will be without Tim Sherwood and Mauricio Taricco, who are also cup-tied.

Rarely have top-flight sides met six times in a season and the odds favour an in-form Tottenham to meet either Leicester City or Sunderland, who meet at Filbert Street tomorrow night, in the final. Wimbledon lost on away goals, after extra-time, to Leicester City in their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final at Selhurst Park two years ago. Much to Kinnear's chagrin, history may repeat itself.

STORY SO FAR

Aug 15: Selhurst Park (league): Wimbledon 3 (Earle, Ekoku), Tottenham 1 (Fox). Bookings: Ginola (T), M Hughes (W). Att: 23,031. Ref: G Poll.

Jan 16: White Hart Lane (league). Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0. Bookings: Ginola (T), Hartson, Cunningham, Roberts (W). Att: 32,422. Ref: M Riley.

Jan 23: Selhurst Pk (FA Cup 4th round): Wimbledon 1 (Earle), Tottenham 1 (Ginola). Bookings: Edinburgh (T), M Hughes (W). Att: 22,229. Ref: D Gallagher.

Jan 27: White Hart Lane (Worthington Cup, semi-final, 1st leg): Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0. Booking: M Hughes (W). Att: 35,997. Ref: S Dunn.

Feb 2: White Hart Lane (FA Cup replay): Tottenham 3 (Sinton, Nielsen), Wimbledon 0. Bkg: Jupp (W). Att: 24,049. Ref: D Gallagher.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable, 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, L Young, J Edinburgh — D Anderton, A Nielsen, S Freund, D Ginola — S Iversen, L Ferdinand.

WIMBLEDON (possible, 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — A Roberts, J Euell, C Hughes, M Kennedy — C Cort, J Goodman.

Referee: G Willard.

Arsenal's strange gesture in sport where cynicism reigns

Kevin McCarra contends that no rules were broken at Highbury and the FA is courting popularity

Chivalry comes at a price and it is the spectators who will foot the bill. The cost of attending the restaged FA Cup-tie between Arsenal and Sheffield United at Highbury next Tuesday is not quite so great as they might have feared, with prices cut in half, but the gate receipts might still come to as much as £375,000, to which must be added the travel costs of visiting supporters.

The expense has to be incurred because Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, decided that the ignoble behaviour of his side, who took advantage of a throw-in to score when Sheffield expected to have the ball tossed back to them, meant that the game should be played again. Followers of Sheffield may have been placated, but there ought to be scorn of these proceedings.

Asked why Arsenal, if they were so repentant of their tainted 2-1 lead, could not just have stood aside and allowed Sheffield United an equaliser, Wenger decreed that such a course of action would have been absurd. Common sense, one must presume, decrees that Arsenal should have another opportunity on their own turf instead of travelling to Bramall Lane.

It is peculiar, too, that the taking of a throw-in is now to be treated as the one pocket of sportsmanship in a hard-hearted game. When the ball is put out of play by a team who have a man in need of treatment, it has, since the early Nineties, become a matter of honour to return it to them. In no other respect, however, is fair play given such priority.

Players are not about to give up all their vices and the choirboy conduct at throw-ins is a mere gesture. The sides must face one another again because of an incident in which Arsenal breached a tacit understanding, but did not break the rules of football. In every game, far greater offences are perpetrated without there being any displays of remorse afterwards.

It is, in fact, more offensive when a player cheats in an explicit manner. If Arsenal had gone 2-1 ahead in the tie on Saturday after Marc Overmars, say, had dived in the area to win a penalty from a deluded referee, would Wenger have recognised an even more reprehensible deed and conceded the match? He would not have done so because the familiar pieces of sharp practice are established elements in the culture of the game.

In England, the sport has been a professional one for more than 100 years and, with livelihoods at stake, men have schooled themselves in illicit wiles. A reform movement might face overwhelming odds, but at least it would merit respect. The action of the FA in sanctioning a fresh encounter between Arsenal and Sheffield, however, was not the first step of a moral crusade — it was a mere gesture.

It would have been in the long-term interests of football if the FA had studied that peculiar event in Arsenal's match and come up with proposals to prevent any recurrence. There is value in the idea that the guidelines applied to referee should be reviewed.

At present, they tend only to halt the game when a player suffers a head knock, but officials should be encouraged to exercise discretion and stop the play whenever they deem it to be appropriate.

The authorities, having been maligned for so long, preferred to snatch at the chance of easy popularity. Tony Blair was rebuked in some quarters for popping up on daytime television to suggest to Richard and Judy that Glenn Hoddle should be removed as the England coach. Figures at the FA seem also to be in search of glib approval and a place on that coveted couch in the television studios.

The ruling body is not supposed to be loveable: it is meant to act responsibly. If the FA was really to right every wrong that occurred in the harsh environment of a football match, two teams would never emerge in time to contest the FA Cup Final.



Overmars after scoring the disputed goal that had an unprecedented sequel. Photograph: Ian Waldie

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.arsenal.co.uk

Houllier's remarks allowed to pass

■ GERARD HOULLIER, the Liverpool manager, is expected to escape punishment over his remarks about Mike Reed, the referee, after Liverpool's 1-0 defeat away to Charlton Athletic on Saturday. Houllier was incensed by Reed's decision to dismiss Jamie Carragher, the Liverpool defender, for appearing to elbow Martin Pringle, the Charlton forward. After the FA Carling Premiership game, he said: "I think the referee wanted Liverpool to lose, or perhaps he wanted Charlton to win . . . the decision was dubious."

Reed said yesterday that he would not be including the comments in his official report to the Football Association (FA). Liverpool will be lodging an appeal and, with that in mind, Reed said that he would be prepared to look at the match video, if asked by the FA. "But I have had no doubts that the decision I took was the correct one," Reed said.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ Middlesbrough's hopes of signing Juninho slumped yesterday when Arrigo Sacchi parted company with Atlético Madrid. The favourite to replace the former Italy coach is Raddy Antic, who signed Juninho for Atlético in a £12 million deal 18 months ago. Antic rates Juninho highly.

■ Les Parris, the Portsmouth chairman, has lost his job as part of cost-cutting measures. Parris, 54, left the post yesterday, just three months after taking control of the Nationwide League first division club, on a day when administrators called in to run the club dismissed nine back-room and office staff. Alan Ball, the manager, persuaded the administrators not to sack any of his coaching staff.

■ Simon Osborn, Wolverhampton Wanderers' £1 million-rated midfield player, has signed a new two-year contract at Molineux. Osborn would have become a free agent in the summer.

■ Reynald Pedros, Parma's French midfield player, has joined Sheffield Wednesday on trial. Pedros, capped 25 times, will spend a week training at Hillsborough. Parma value Pedros, 27, at about £2 million.

■ Anders Limpar, the former Arsenal and Everton midfield player, has signed a two-year contract to play for Colorado Rapids in Major League Soccer in the United States, AIK Stockholm, his former club, said yesterday. AIK said the 33-year-old "went for free as we didn't want to extend his contract".

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Worthington Cup
Semi-final, second leg
Wimbledon (0) v Tottenham (0) (8.05)

Nationwide League
First division
Norwich v Barnsley (7.45)
Watford v Huddersfield (7.45)
Second division
Wigan v Notts County (7.45)
Third division
Darlington v Hull
Swansea v Brentford (7.45)

Nationwide Conference
Southport v Hereford (7.45)
Welling v Rushden and Diamonds (7.45)
Yeovil v Woking (7.45)

Auto Windscreens Shield
Northern section
Semi-finals
Lincoln v Wrexham (7.45)
Southern section
Millwall v Gillingham (7.45)
Walsall v Cambridge United (7.45)

Scottish League
Second division
Alloa v Clyde
Livingston v Arbroath
Third division
Brechin v Montrose
East Stirling v Albion

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath City v Salisbury (7.45); Weymouth v Crawley (7.45). Southern division: Cirencester Town v Newport IoW (7.45); Havant and Waterlooville v Fleet Town (7.45), Witney v Dartford (7.45). Midland division: Blakenall v Redditch. League Cup: Second round: Shepshed Dynamo v Baldock. Second-round replay: Tamworth v Bedworth. Third round: Rothwell v Boston. Fourth round: Bashley v Dorchester.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Whitby v Guiseley. First division: Great Harwood v Trafford. Unifilla first division Cup: Third round: Matlock Town v Witton Albion. League Cup: Third round: Droylsden v Colwyn Bay. Replay: Accrington Stanley v Chorley.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Sutton United v Basingstoke; Uxbridge v Harrow.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldershot Town v Walton and Hersham (7.45), Aylesbury v Dagenham and Redbridge (7.45), Carshalton v Slough, Enfield v Billericay (7.45). First division: Barton Rovers v Croydon (7.45), Molesey v Berkhamsted (7.45), Wealdstone v Leyton Pennant (7.45); Yeading v Hitchin (7.45). Second division: Abingdon Town v Banstead (7.45); Bedford Town v Edgware (7.45), Hertford v Barking (7.45); Leighton Town v Witham (7.45). Tooting and Mitcham v Bracknell (7.45). Third division: Camberley Town v Southall, Dorking v Wingate and Finchley (7.45); East Thurrock v Corinthian Casuals (7.45). Egham v Aveley (7.45); Epsom and Ewell v Kingsbury (7.45). Puma Cup: Second round: Hendon v Heybridge Swifts.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Sheffield Wednesday v Everton.

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Port Vale v Birmingham (1.0). North West Conference: Bury v Chester (2.0). Tranmere v Preston (1.30). North East Conference: York v Hartlepool (12.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby v Liverpool (7.0). First division: Grimsby v Coventry (7.0); Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester City (7.0). Second division: Bradford v Scarborough (2.0).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second-round replay: Finn Harps v Cork.

IRISH LEAGUE: Coca-Cola League Cup: Preliminary round: Newry v Larne. First round: Portadown v Cliftonville, Glentoran v Dungannon Swifts.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon United v East Ham, Great Wakering v Bowers United, Stansted v Hullbridge Sports.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Morpeth Town v Stockton, South Shields v Newcastle Blue Star, Tow Law v Shildon, West Auckland v Billingham.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham v Chatham; Erith v Crockenhill; Lordswood v Hythe; Ramsgate v Whitstable Town; Thamesmead v Herne Bay; Tunbridge Wells v Slade Green.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Mangotsfield Utd; Bridgwater v Elmore (7.45), Brislington v Melksham; Odd Down v Paulton Rovers, Tiverton v Barnstaple.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Milton Keynes (7.45); Haringey v Brook House (7.45), New Bradwell St Peter v Brache Sparta, Somersett Ambury v Bamsdown.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Hartley Wintney; Chipstead v Cranleigh, Merstham v Cobham, Raynes Park Vale v Netherne, Reading Town v Ash, Viking Sports v Walton Casuals.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley Town v Darlaston; Ludlow Town v Gornal Athletic.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Felixstowe Port and Town, Ely v Soham, Great Yarmouth v Newmarket, Histon v Stowmarket; Sudbury Wanderers v Maldon, Wroxham v Gorleston.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT v Brockenhurst; Fareham v Thatcham Town. League Cup: Quarter-finals, second leg: Bournemouth (1) v Eastleigh (3), Christchurch (2) v Moneyfields (2).

UHLSPORT CUP: Second-round replay: Boston v Yaxley.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Spalding; Long Buckby v Ford Sports; S and L Corby v Desborough, St Neots v Potton; Wootton v Kempston.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: East Preston v Wick, Eastbourne United v Eastbourne Town.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND INVITATION CUP: Third round: Wolverhampton City v Bandon.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Staveley MW v Garforth Town. League Cup: Third round: Buxton v North Ferriby. Fourth round: Ossett Albion v Denaby. Selby v Ossett Town.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v St Helens Town. Floodlit Trophy: Second round: Atherton Collieries v Prescot Cables. Third round: Rossendale v Darwen. Semi-final, first leg: Kidsgrove Athletic v Curzon Ashton. League Cup: Third-round replay: Newcastle Town v Glossop North End.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: South Wales Police v Maesteg (7.0).

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday February 20
Coupon No, fix, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Arsenal v Leicester	1
2 Blackburn v Shef Wed	1
3 Coventry v Man United	X
4 Derby v Charlton	1
5 Leeds v Everton	1
6 Liverpool v West Ham	1
7 Midd'brough v Tott'ham	2
8 Nottm F v Chelsea	2
9 South'ton v Newcastle	2

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

10 Barnsley v Grimsby	1
11 Bury v Norwich	X
12 Crewe v Stockport	1
13 Hudd'field v Tranmere	X
14 Ipswich v Oxford	1
15 Port Vale v Crystal Pal	X
16 QPR v Watford	1
17 Sunderland v Wolves	X
18 Swindon v Portsmouth	2
19 West Brom v Bristol City	1

SECOND DIVISION

20 Blackpool v Lincoln	1
21 Bristol Rovers v Luton	2
22 Fulham v Notts County	1
23 Gillingham v Colchester	1
24 Man City v Macclesfield	1
25 Millwall v Stoke	2
26 Oldham v Northampton	1
27 Reading v Preston	2
28 Walsall v Chesterfield	1
29 Wigan v Bournemouth	X
30 Wrexham v York	X
31 Wycombe v Burnley	2

THIRD DIVISION

32 Carlisle v Mansfield	X
33 Darlington v Plymouth	1
34 Exeter v Hartlepool	1
35 Hull v Barnet	2
36 Leyton O v Cambridge	1
37 Peterbo'gh v Sh'wsbury	1
38 Rotherham v Brentford	X
39 Scarborough v Swansea	2

SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

40 Dundee Utd v Aberdeen	2
41 Hearts v St Johnstone	X
42 Kilmarnock v Dunfmline	1
43 Rangers v Dundee	1

FIRST DIVISION

44 Airdrie v St Mirren	1
45 Falkirk v Hibernian	2
46 Morton v Hamilton	1
47 Raith v Ayr	2
48 Stranraer v Clydebank	2

SECOND DIVISION

49 Alloa v Inverness Cal	1

TRIPLE CHANCE (home teams): Coventry, Bury, Huddersfield, Port Vale, Sunderland, Wigan, Wrexham, Carlisle, Rotherham, Hearts.

BEST DRAWS: Bury, Port Vale, Wigan, Wrexham, Rotherham.

AWAYS: Tottenham, Chelsea, Newcastle, Portsmouth, Swansea.

HOMES: Arsenal, Blackburn, Liverpool, Ipswich, West Bromwich, Fulham, Manchester City, Walsall, Peterborough.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Blackburn, Ipswich, West Bromwich, Peterborough. Aways: Tottenham, Newcastle, Portsmouth. Draws: Bury, Wigan, Wrexham.

☐ Vince Wright

RUGBY UNION

Pugh's vision of Europe backs English return

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

A EUROPEAN Cup expanded next season to include English clubs could offer the stabilising element that rugby in the northern hemisphere so desperately requires, Vernon Pugh said yesterday. Pugh, the chairman of the International Rugby Board (IRB), whose vision of the future has so often seemed at odds with those of English officials, said that the game would not forgive administrators who "messed up one of the golden opportunities" of the professional era.

"At the moment, there is no one solid foundation to build on," Pugh said in Cardiff, although meetings this week could resolve the European impasse and he hopes that, within the next month, the future of the tournament — won amid such acclaim by Ulster little more than a fortnight ago — will be assured. The latest stumbling block is an apparent difference in French proposals placed before European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) and those discussed between representatives of France and England at a subsequent meeting.

There was also the broadest of hints that the constitution of ERC could change in the near future and that, if agreement is reached at the next scheduled meeting of the ERC board on Friday week, a revamped European Cup will kick-start the domestic season next November, taking advantage of enhanced interest in rugby union after the conclusion of the fourth World Cup. It is envisaged that a 20-team tournament will occupy nine weekends, running through to the start of the Six Nations Championship in 2000, with a final to be played in May.

Yet Pugh was comfortable with the concept of a 24-team competition, if that assisted England's return to the European table, with a possible reversion to 20 teams after a season that he perceives as an opportunity for the game to experiment with fresh structures for the new millennium. The significant differences emanating from France involve fewer guaranteed places for some countries, so as to accommodate more English and French competitors; limited meritocracy in qualification for future tournaments and revised distribution of revenue.

"All these are capable of resolution and what has changed since the start of the season is that there is now a will on the part of everyone to be involved in a good-quality European competition," Pugh said. "There is also an acceptance that you have to build in fundamental safeguards so that it remains truly European.


Pugh: opportunity

"What with Rugby World Cup, Europe and the new Six Nations, next season should be a sorting-out season. If there is a will for a British League, the right time to establish it is 2000-01. If you try and do it before then, you are breaking terms, conditions of participation. Next season can be used as a basis for selection. The season after would give a new tournament its own profile, not muddled by the competitions already in place.

"I have a fair understanding of what England would be totally satisfied with, but a key factor is the readiness to work from within. Without England, the tournament is sadly lacking. That was the blight over the first year of Europe. If it had started [in 1995-96, when neither England nor Scotland competed] with all unions involved, it would have gone a long way towards settling the professional game."

Pugh, who is also a director of ERC and was chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, has come under fire not only from opponents in England but within his own constituency of Wales. He speaks of inaccurate reporting of his views, which have hurt his family and friends, of "unkind and unfair personal criticisms which are not related to the issues involved. But if that's the territory in which I have to operate, it won't divert me from driving what I think is a great sport towards a properly ordered framework, for the benefit of everyone.

"I do believe in a regulated game, one which is fair for everyone involved. I believe the powerful have a responsibility to the weak, that there must be stability to the structures of a game discovering wealth, which simply wasn't there ten years ago." Part of that stability should stem from England, Pugh said, whose strength and seniority should make it a bedrock of the game but whose confused state over the past three years has sent ripples across the rugby world.

"Some of the quiet diplomacy of the past few months should bear fruit," Pugh said. "We hope for a settled game by early April. One of the things that continues to fire my enthusiasm is that there is an increasing sense of collective responsibility for developing the game and an understanding that self-interest cannot predominate against the overall interests of rugby union."

DAVID ROGERS/ALLSPORT


Putt, right, the London Irish scrum half, is tackled by Healey during the game at Welford Road last Saturday

Healey dropped by England

By Mark Souster

AUSTIN HEALEY faced an uncertain England future last night after the Leicester scrum half was cited by London Irish for stamping on Kevin Putt during the Allied Dunbar Premiership match last Saturday. Clive Woodward, the national coach, reacted immediately by dropping him from the squad for the international against Scotland on Saturday.

Last night, after an emergency meeting at Welford Road, Leicester took pre-emptive action by suspending Healey for 21 days, with effect from last Saturday. However, the prospect of an 84-day suspension by the Rugby Football Union looms large should the player be found guilty by a disciplinary hearing that will sit, at the earliest, next week.

Woodward said: "I have decided to temporarily leave Austin out of the squad. The decision has been made in the best interests of the player and the England squad. I will continue to monitor events before making any further comment."

A statement from Leicester said that a four-man committee, which included Peter Wheeler, the chief executive of Leicester, and Dean Richards, the director of rugby, accepted that there had been no wilful intent on Healey's part. However, the statement said also that "it was considered other actions could have been taken to avoid the contact".

Television replays show clearly that the player's boot made contact with Putt's face. The former Natal scrum half needed six stitches in a cut above and below his right eye after the incident, which occurred in the thirteenth minute of the game. Graham Hughes, the referee, took no action against Healey because he was unsighted. Healey, 25, who maintains that the injury was caused accidentally, apologised immediately after the match, but must have realised that would not be the end of the matter.

Initially London Irish, who lost 31-10, played down the incident, but, after studying the video evidence yesterday, the club confirmed it would cite Healey for "allegedly stamping on the face of Kevin Putt as the latter lay on the ground after a maul. The matter is now in the hands of the relevant authorities. London Irish and Kevin Putt will not be making any further comment."

Besides disrupting his career with England, for whom he has played 18 times, Healey would also miss a sizeable chunk of Leicester's push for the Premiership title.

David Campbell, a former director of Newcastle, has confirmed that he has tabled a bid for the club. Campbell, who resigned last Thursday from the board, citing a conflict of interest, has put together a consortium that has offered an undisclosed sum for the 76 per cent controlling interest owned by Cameron Hall, the holding company. The shareholders, who own 24 per cent and who have first refusal to buy Newcastle, have until March 1 to match any bid. A third offer could also be made.

John Eales, the Australia captain, may miss the World Cup, which starts in October, after damaging tendons in his shoulder while lifting weights in a gymnasium. He will see a specialist today to determine the extent of the damage.

SKY SPORTS


Television cameras captured Healey stamping on Putt

Injury-hit Wales reconsider line-up

By Mark Souster

MOUNTING injury worries have forced Graham Henry, the Wales coach, to delay naming the side to play Ireland at Wembley on Saturday. Allan Bateman was definitely ruled out with a hamstring injury sustained playing for Richmond against Sale, with Mark Taylor, of Swansea, dropped in favour of the British Lions centre against Scotland, expected to replace him.

More worryingly for Henry, who had hoped to announce the team in Cardiff yesterday, his four senior players did not train during a session that Henry closed to the public after only ten minutes. Robert Howley, the captain, has a shoulder injury, while Scott Quinnell and David Young have calf strains and Jonathan Humphreys a back injury.

In Dublin, Victor Costello took part in training yesterday and is expected to be included in the Ireland team announced today by Warren Gatland. Trevor Brennan, who came on as a replacement for Costello against France, is likely to be suspended today after being sent off playing for St Mary's on Saturday.

Scotland have recalled Andy Reed and Craig Chalmers to their squad for the Calcutta Cup game at Twickenham as replacements for Doddie Weir and Duncan Hodge, both of whom suffered leg injuries against Wales. Jim Telfer hinted strongly yesterday that the team to play England will be that which finished the game against Wales, with Gregor Townsend at fly half and Alan Tait at outside centre.

After the debacle at Lansdowne Road, it has been confirmed there will be no Lloyds TSB centre-pitch branding at Twickenham or Wembley on Saturday, although logos will be in place in the in-goal areas.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: Backs: G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons), C Chalmers (Edinburgh Reivers), I Fairley (Edinburgh Reivers), J Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), K Logan (Wasps), S Longstaff (Glasgow Caledonians), G Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians), C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), A Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), G Townsend (Brive). **Forwards:** S Brotherstone (Edinburgh Reivers), G Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), P Burnell (London Scottish), S Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), D Hilton (Bath), M Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), S Murray (Bedford), E Peters (Bath), A Pountney (Northampton), A Reed (Wasps), T Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons)

SPORT IN BRIEF

Henman survives poor start

■ **TENNIS:** Tim Henman, the No 3 seed, recovered from a disastrous start to defeat Davide Sanguinetti, of Italy, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the first round of the Rotterdam indoor tournament yesterday. After tamely surrendering the first set, Henman broke in the fourth game to take the second and surged into a 5-0 lead in the decider. Sanguinetti hit back with three straight games before Henman closed out the match. Earlier, Edwin Kempes, a wild-card entry from Holland, beat Jan Kroslak, of Slovakia, 6-4, 7-6 and Roger Federer, of Switzerland, overcame Guillaume Raoux, of France, 6-7, 7-5, 7-6.

■ **BOXING: Joe Calzaghe learned yesterday that he did not break any bones in his hand during his successful World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight championship defence against Robin Reid on Saturday night. The Welshman was hampered from the middle rounds, but his father, Enzo, said yesterday: "It's just badly swollen and hopefully it will be only two weeks at the most before it is OK for Joe to start training again."**

■ **HOCKEY:** One team from outside the Women's National League premier division are guaranteed a place in the semi-finals of the English Hockey Association Cup after Chelmsford were drawn at home to Bradford in the sixth round yesterday. Clifton, the holders, travel to Leicester, while Slough and Hightown were drawn at home to Doncaster and Olton respectively.

■ **CRICKET: Graeme Hick's three centuries in the triangular limited-overs international series in Australia have made him England's highest-ranked one-day batsman. The Worcestershire player has climbed 12 places to No 14 in the latest world ratings.**

ATHLETICS

Smith earns leading role

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

FOUR days after a public squabble with British athletics over his refusal to compete in the BUPA grand prix in Birmingham on Sunday, Steve Smith was named yesterday as the Great Britain team captain for the world indoor championships in Maebashi, Japan, next month. Smith's appointment heals the sores of one controversy but highlights another.

Smith, the high jump bronze medal-winner at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, competed in Germany on Sunday, instead of in Britain's main promotion of the winter season. Having failed to agree financial terms, he said that Fast Track, the promotions company, was offering him too little, too late. However, the selectors, recognising that a row over money for a commercial meeting should not affect team selection for a championship, gave Smith their full support.

"The team was picked purely on ability," Graham Knight, the performance director for sprints and hurdles and a selector, said.

After sustaining a neck injury that briefly threatened his career, Smith was appointed non-competing men's captain for the European championships in Budapest last year, when Britain won nine titles and topped the medals table. "Virtually everybody associated with that team commented on Steve's ability," Knight said. "There was never any doubt, once Steve was picked for Maebashi, that he would be the ideal man to do the job."


Smith: ability

Smith secured his place when, in his first competitions in eight months since damaging his neck, he jumped 2.24 metres last Friday and 2.27 metres on Sunday. Smith is one of only four field event athletes in a squad of 24. The imbalance is due to the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) decision to turn field events into straight finals, making the qualifying standards harder than in the track events.

Judy Oakes, the most-capped athlete in the history of British athletics, with 83 appearances, has failed to reach the tough standard in the shot because of injury. However, she was critical of the IAAF giving preferential treatment to track athletes. She said: "I do not believe they should make these competitions elitist. Are they going to start making the Olympics elitist? They've got all the grand prix meetings for elitism."

SQUAD (including those previously selected): **Men:** 60m: J Gardener (Wessex and Bath), J Livingston (Shaftesbury Barnet). 60m hurdles: C Jackson (Brecon), R Baillie (Sale). 200m: J Regis (Belgrave), M Adam (Haringey). 400m: J Baulch (Cardiff), D Ladejo (Belgrave). 800m: A Hart (Coventry). 1,500m: E King (Sale). High jump: S Smith (Liverpool). Pole vault: N Buckfield (Crawley). 4 x 400m relay: Baulch, S Baldock (Belgrave), A Condon (Sale), Ladejo, A Patrick (Windsor, Slough and Eton), S Wariso (Haringey). **Women:** 60m: C Blackman (Woodford Green), J Whitlock (Trafford). 60m hurdles: K Madden (Sale), D Allahgreen (Liverpool). 200m: S Anderson (Shaftesbury Barnet). 400m: S Gudgeon (Edinburgh Woollen Mill). Pole vault: J Whitlock. Triple jump: A Hansen (Shaftesbury Barnet).

SWIMMING

Illness lays Whitehead low

By Craig Lord

A MYSTERY illness yesterday forced Adam Whitehead, the European short-course breaststroke champion over 200 metres, to withdraw from the World Cup as the series moved to Malmö, Sweden, for the eighth of 12 rounds today.

Instead of heading out to Sweden, Whitehead went home to Coventry after medical tests revealed that he may have a problem related to his central nervous system. With just six weeks remaining before Great Britain's finest breaststroke prospect since Nick Gillingham challenges for the world short-course title in Hong Kong, Whitehead was ordered to rest.

Nick Sellwood, his coach, said: "We're taking no risks. He's got a problem, he needs some rest. We don't think it's serious, but we don't want to spoil Adam's chances in Hong Kong."

Whitehead, 18, collapsed beside the pool in Glasgow after winning his European title last December. At the time, it was thought that his condition was nothing more serious than the effects of an exceptionally hard race and nervous tension on winning his first significant international title.

However, back in the Tollcross Park pool in Glasgow on Saturday for the seventh round of the World Cup, Whitehead swam 4sec off his best to finish third in the 200 metres breaststroke. He underwent blood tests after the final of the 100 metres on Sunday afternoon.

Grey in the face and sporting rings around his eyes black enough for him to have been taken for a boxer, Whitehead said: "I've had some medical tests since December and there seems to be some problem with my central nervous system. I've got to have some more tests. I feel okay in myself, but I'm just really tired."

In Whitehead's absence in Malmö, Britain will be looking for better things yet from James Hickman, of Leeds. Hickman, 23, is unbeaten over 200 metres butterfly since winning the world short-course title in Gothenburg in 1997.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Chicago 76 San Antonio 89; Philadelphia 78 Atlanta 70; Vancouver 96 Dallas 92; Orlando 85 Milwaukee 82; LA Lakers 99 Indiana 101; LA Clippers 73 Minnesota 95, Golden State 105 Portland 100 (OT)

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday's results: Edinburgh Rocks 61 Milton Keynes Lions 67, Chester Jets 109 Worthing Bears 87; Manchester Giants 92 Leicester Riders 68.

BOWLS

EGHAM TROPHY: All-England mixed inter-club championship: Last 16: Concordia bt Cumbria 83-80; Spalding bt Wellingborough 86-62, North Walsham bt Beccles 91-84; Cherwell bt Picketts Lock 77-76; Cambridge Park bt Swindon Westlecot 84-72; Folkestone bt Egham 85-74; Moonfleet bt Worthing 83-76; Teignbridge bt Taunton Deane 114-69.

CRICKET

Tour match

Wellington Emerging Players v England Under-19

WELLINGTON (final day of three): England Under-19 beat Wellington Emerging Players by 96 runs

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings 420 (I R Bell 95, J K Maunders 55, J R J Fearick 50).

Second Innings

*I N Flanagan c Farley b Drake	34
J K Maunders c L Morgan b Edwards	14
G R Haywood c and b Patel	7
M A Carberry c L Morgan b Patel	47
† M A Wallace st R Morgan b L Morgan	8
M J Symington c Golder b Consedine	9
J R J Fearick not out	10
I R Bell not out	4
Extras (lb 7, nb 2)	9
Total (6 wkts dec, 34.3 overs)	**142**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-41, 3-87, 4-111, 5-120, 6-128.

BOWLING: Rampling 5-3-12-0; Edwards 8-2-22-1, Patel 11-2-33-2; Drake 7-0-37-1; Consedine 2-0-16-1; R Morgan 1 3-0-15-1.

WELLINGTON: First Innings

*† L Morgan c Maunders b Haywood	60
S de Silva lbw b Symington	21
J Consedine c Carberry b Fearick	91
S Farley c Bell b Fearick	61
R Morgan not out	25
S Cross not out	24
Extras (b 16, lb 10, nb 6)	32
Total (4 wkts dec, 96 overs)	**314**

S Golder, M Drake, L Edwards, C Rampling and J Patel did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-54, 2-121, 3-257, 4-282.

BOWLING: Whiley 4-1-5-0; Symington 21-6-50-1, Fearick 16-2-68-2; Haywood 18-5-40-1; Dawson 18-2-75-0, Flanagan 13-5-23-0; Aldis 8-2-27-0

Second Innings

S de Silva c Symington b Dawson	50
*† L Morgan b Dawson	16
J Consedine run out	4
S Farley lbw b Dawson	0
S Golder b Dawson	41
R Morgan lbw b Dawson	0
S Cross c Fearick b Haywood	1
M Drake not out	25
L Edwards c sub b Dawson	0
C Rampling b Dawson	1
J Patel c and b Symington	10
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (37.5 overs)	**152**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-73, 3-73, 4-74, 5-74, 6-83, 7-123, 8-123, 9-129.

BOWLING: Symington 5.5-0-26-1; Fearick 4-0-20-0; Dawson 15-2-44-7, Haywood 9-1-45-1, Flanagan 4-0-15-0

Umpires: R D S Alexander and I W Shine.

GOLF

LA JOLLA, California: Buick International: Leading final scores (all United States). **266:** T Woods 68, 71, 62, 65. **268:** W R Brown 69, 65, 68, 66. **270:** B Glasson 68, 67, 68, 67. **273:** C Perry 66, 69, 72, 66; O Uresti 71, 68, 69, 67; K Sutherland 68, 68, 67, 70. **275:** L Roberts 70, 70, 68, 67; D Paulson 67, 64, 74, 70; S Simpson 71, 68, 66, 70; C Riley 72, 65, 68, 70

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S EHA CUP: Sixth-round draw: Chelmsford v Bradford, Leicester v Clifton; Hightown v Olton; Slough v Doncaster

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Colorado 4 Philadelphia 4, Detroit 4 NY Rangers 2; Phoenix 1 Anaheim 5

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Sunday: Ayr 7 London 3, Bracknell 8 Sheffield 3, Cardiff 2 Nottingham 4

RUGBY UNION

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool three: Correction: La Rochelle 13 Brive 33.

TENNENT'S VELVET CUP: Semi-final draw: Gala v Melrose; Boroughmuir or Heriot's FP v Kelso. **Shield: Semi-final draw:** Jed-Forest v Selkirk, St Boswells v Gordonians or Hawick Linden. **Bowl: Semi-final draw:** Garnock v Edinburgh University; Corstorphine v Duns.

□ All ties to be played Saturday April 3.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3a (Hawaii to Yokohama; with distance to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson, 933); 2, Chrysolite (T Hedges, 957); 3, Thermopylae (M Tod, 1,007), 4, Senca (R Dean, 1,015); 5, Antiope (K Harris, 1,193).

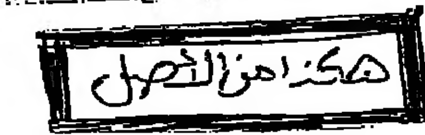
SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: Scottish Open: First round: S Pettman (Eng) bt W Snaddon (Scot) 5-2; D Harold (Eng) w/o K Payne (Eng); M Campbell (Scot) bt G Wilkinson (Eng) 5-1, L Fernandez (Eng) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-4, D Dale (Wales) bt J Johnson (Eng) 5-3, P Hunter (Eng) bt J Lardner (Scot) 5-3, M Stevens (Wales) bt S Mazrocis (Eng) 5-2, W Thorne (Eng) bt A Hicks (Eng) 5-0, A Drago (Malta) bt M Wilson (Eng) 5-0; C Small (Scot) bt B Mapstone (Eng) 5-1.

TENNIS

SAN JOSE, California: Sybase Open: Final: M Philippoussis (Aus) bt C Mamiit (US) 6-3, 6-2.

ROTTERDAM: Indoor tournament: First round: *E Kempes (Holl) bt J Kroslak (Slovakia) 6-4, 7-6*; R Federer (Switz) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-7, 7-5, 7-6, H Arazi (Mor) bt G Etlis (Arg) 7-6, 7-5, T Henman (GB) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.



Pakistan prepare for Asian series amid further controversy



BIKAS DAS

Wasim is greeted by local children at practice at Eden Gardens yesterday, but his arrival has been overshadowed by fresh allegations of match-fixing

Wasim's worries are off the pitch

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN CALCUTTA

AFTER losing to India in Delhi nine days ago, Wasim Akram made two wishes. He arrived in Calcutta to discover both granted. While he knew already that two neutral umpires will officiate in the Asian Test Championship (ATC), which begins tomorrow when India take on Pakistan, he could not have imagined that his demand for a quicker pitch would be taken on board by the groundsman at Eden Gardens seemingly to the letter.

Unfortunately for the Pakistan captain, final preparations were overtaken by further allegations of match-fixing. *Outlook*, a current affairs magazine based in Delhi, has published what it claims are extracts "edited for purposes of brevity" of the depositions of 16 witnesses to the continuing state inquiry in Lahore, conducted by Justice Malik Muhammad Qayyum.

Javed Miandad, the present coach, Aamir Sohail, Rashid Latif and Imran Khan, former captains, and Intikhab Alam and Haroon Rashid, former managers, are among those quoted and Salim Malik and Wasim Akram, who have consistently pleaded innocence, figure large in testimony. The allegations also involve several other players.

Latif accuses Malik, also the subject of the initial allegations from Mark Waugh and Shane Warne that brought the issue to the surface. He claims that he was called to Malik's room in Christchurch before a one-day international in 1994. Latif said: "Malik told me we had to lose the match as he had struck some deal with somebody about it. I was offered ten lakh rupees [around £15,000] by Malik. I told him I would think over the matter.

"There were also four or five other players and it was obvious that they must have been offered money. The next morning, when I took a catch off a batsman from New Zealand, Malik came to me and reprimanded me and reiterated that we have to lose the match.

"During the water break, I told Malik I was not a party to the fixing as I decided during the night not to accept any money." Latif, a wicketkeeper, also claimed that Wasim was involved. He said: "In my view, no-balls and wide balls were deliberately bowled by him [Wasim]. There was an imminent threat of the match being washed out due to rain, which led the bowlers to bowl deliberately in a way that the scoring rate could be accelerated."

Testimony from Saleem Parvez, a bookmaker, relates to the Singer Cup one-day tournament in Sri Lanka in 1994. He said he had paid money to players "on behalf of someone" to fix the match. Javed refused to discuss the issue yesterday. According to *Outlook*, he said in his deposition: "I strongly recommend that the culprits be punished sternly. They should be banned for life and even if we have to sacrifice the whole team, we should do so in order to salvage the country and the cricket team."

Under Pakistani law, the accused have the right to face and cross-examine their accusers at the judicial inquiry. It is now thought unlikely that Justice Qayyum will be able to disclose his findings to the Government until after the World Cup in June.

Wasim, who recently passed Imran's record of 362 Test wickets by a Pakistan bowler, declined to comment last night when he appeared at a press conference to promote the triangular competition, which also involves Sri Lanka.

Shaharyar Khan, the Pakistan manager, gave an official response. He said: "This is just another attempt at muck-raking. The matter is *sub judice* as far as we are concerned because it is the subject of a court hearing. I have talked to the players. I do not think it has had an effect. They have lived with this for so long they want to put it behind them. It is an example of how Pakistan is looking at the matter that some of the players under investigation are on this tour."

Meanwhile, Mushtaq Ahmed has returned home because of a neck problem to be replaced by Arshad Khan, an off-spin bowler. However, Pakistan may be tempted to include another fast bowler, with Shoaib Akhtar, impressive in the three-day game against an Indian Board President's XI in Kochi last week, in that case likely to feature.

India are unhappy at the amount of grass that has been left on the pitch and both Mohammad Azharuddin, the captain, and Anshuman Gaekwad, the coach, have conveyed such feelings to the ground authority. A more constructive response will be to give a debut to Laxmi Ratan Shukla, 18, a pace-bowling all-rounder who hails from Bengal.

With the crowd at Eden Gardens potentially the most volatile in the country, security will be just as rigorous as it was in Madras and Delhi for the thrilling drawn Test series — although on this occasion spectators numbering at least 70,000 will be allowed to carry food and drinking water into the ground.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): S Ramesh, V V S Laxman, R Dravid, S R Tendulkar, M Azharuddin, S C Ganguly, N R Mongia, A Kumble, H H Singh, B K V Prasad, J Srinath, L R Shukla.

PAKISTAN (from): Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Salim Malik, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Nadeem Khan, Shoaib Akhtar.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard (South Africa)

LINKS

WEBSITE: www-uk.cricket.org/ www.khel.com

TELEVISION: First ONdigital (channel 20)

Flintoff's progress fits the bill

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN BULAWAYO

AFTER the successful negotiation of the international series, England A turn their attention today to the first of three one-day matches against Zimbabwe A. For Darren Maddy, the game at the Queens Sports Club here may be the last opportunity to influence his chances of inclusion in the World Cup.

Only Flintoff and Maddy on this A tour were named in England's provisional 30 for the tournament, a squad that is due to be reduced to 19 later this week and, finally, to 15 by the end of March.

Of the two, Flintoff is the more realistic to make the final cut, particularly now that he is bowling again, relatively free from the back pain that at times last season saw him unable to train and barely able to bat. The difference has been the loss of almost ten kilograms in weight and an intensive programme with Ann Brentnall, the A tour and Derbyshire physiotherapist.

"She's been doing stabilising work with me and it's got me bowling again," Flintoff said. "It's a different outlook; she's fresh, never having met me before. Every morning, she gives me rubs and we do work trying to strengthen the bottom of my back, not just the big muscles."

So far, Flintoff has completed 45 overs in matches on tour, with only minor stiffness the following mornings and with none of the pains that he describes as "like a dagger in the lower back". Consequently, England A have been able to field a balanced attack, playing both spinners.

Dawson's delivery decisive in victory

WELLINGTON (final day of three): England Under-19 beat Wellington Emerging Players by 96 runs

IN AN ideal world, Richard Dawson, the Yorkshire off spinner, might have been given a rest for this match, considering his painful left thumb and the 160-odd overs that he has bowled on this tour so far (John Stern writes).

However, there were no complaints from Dawson or any of his England Under-19 team-mates after he took seven wickets for 44 to complete a 96-run victory four days before the decisive third international match against New Zealand in Alexandra.

The two captains decided to contrive a run chase in this game in order to sustain waning interest in the proceedings. Wellington declared on 314 for four, 106 behind England, who shuffled their batting order and lost six wickets in setting their hosts a target of 249 in a minimum of 61 overs.

While Suresh de Silva, a wristy right-hander, was at the crease, driving and cutting with ease, the target was within reach. When he swept Dawson to deep square, the tide began to turn. A variety of slogs and diffident defensive shots confronted Dawson, who was extracting some turn and bounce on a sluggish wicket.

Only Scott Golder, who has played for the Wellington senior side, had much to say for himself, hitting two sixes and seven fours in his 41.

Scoreboard, page 45

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

LATION

(a) The action of moving, or the motion of a body from one place to another. Motion of translation. From the Latin (extremely) irregular verb, fero, I bear, ferre, tuli, latum. 1690: "The Mundane System is consider'd having the Sun in the Centre, exempt from any motion of Lation."

MOFF

(b) An instrument consisting of a pair of compasses, one leg of which is fashioned like the leg of a pair of callipers. "It is a cross, in fact, between compass and calliper; and its character of cross breed got it originally the name of hermaphrodite, which was corrupted into mophrodite, which has been shortened into moff."

LAGAN

(c) Goods or wreckage lying on the seabed. Cf. flotsam and jetsam. Perhaps of Scandinavian origin. "Prowling about the shore after the waifs of the storm, deserted jetsam and lagan."

MITCHELLA

(c) A genus of trailing evergreen herbs of the order Rubiaceae. A plant of this genus, eg Mitchella repens, the partridge-berry.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Bg6+! Nxg6; 2 Nf5+ Kf8; 3 Qg7 checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

It's gardening, Jim . . .

Home Front in the Garden
BBC2, 9.00pm

The infuriatingly cheerful Tessa Shaw (does nothing get on her nerves?) is back with more garden makeovers that have a lot to do with painting everything in sight in garish colours and not much about plants and flowers. The tone is set by the resident garden designer, Diarmuid (pronounced Dermot) Gavin, when he says he influenced more by *Star Trek* than Sissinghurst. Some of us, if we saw Diarmuid on the horizon, would draw the curtains, lock the doors and pretend to be out. But not Annette from Neasden in North London. She has seen Diarmuid on this show before, thinks he is the tops and cannot wait to let him loose on her spacious patch that is mostly grotty lawn and weed-infested paving stones. The transformation is radical and, yes, colourful, and Sissinghurst it most definitely is not.

The Coroner
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A retired GP dies in a fire at his home, a 24-year-old man apparently hangs himself and an alcoholic is found dead by the warden of his sheltered housing. These are among the 5,000 deaths reported annually to the Birmingham City Coroner, Dr Richard Whittington. This four-part series is a documentary in the purest sense of the word, showing us in step-by-step detail how a coroner's investigation works and using actual cases to illustrate the process. The validity or otherwise of the system itself is not part of the agenda. In contrast to the fictional BBC coroner played by Amanda Burton, Dr Whittington stays in the office and leaves his staff, all former police officers, to do the leg work. This is a film partly about procedures but also about the sad human stories behind the bodies in the mortuary.

Close Up: Collectors
BBC2, 9.30pm

Much of British contemporary art may be beyond the understanding of most of the population but it enjoys a high critical reputation and, relevant to this film, it is eagerly collected. Unlike the *Antiques Roadshow* the programme is coy about prices but you guess that the hobby does not come cheap. Why is it that the featured collectors tend to be bankers or IT managers rather than, say, schoolteachers? The coverage is too scattered to present any strong conclusions but along the way we get a good idea of how the art business functions and a taste of what is currently fashionable. Among those showing their acquisitions are Damien Hirst's dentist and a women who used art to get over her divorce. Hirst himself pops up to denounce art galleries and auction houses with equal venom.

Jarvis Cocker explores the real art world in *Journeys Into the Outside* (C4, 11.05pm)

Journeys Into the Outside
Channel 4, 11.05pm

When the pop star Jarvis Cocker was a student at a London art school he became obsessed by the gap between the academic perception of art and everyday life. His thoughts were nourished by a book called *Outsider Out* which suggested that art could be made by people from all walks of life who did not think of themselves as artists. There was more to art than that which hung on gallery walls. In a three-part series Cocker sets out to substantiate the thesis, starting in France. He begins on the north coast where a priest carved more than 300 faces in the rock, tracks down a milkman who has covered his house in broken crockery, meets a Ukrainian émigré with a passion for creating structures from rubbish and ends up at a palace built single-handedly by a village postman. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Directors
Radio 2, 10.00pm

The first series of *The Directors* had some revealing interviews with movie folk so it is good to see it back, starting tonight with Robert Redford in conversation with the presenter Mark Kermode. Redford comes across, not unexpectedly, as a thinking man with some clear ideas as to what movies ought to be achieving. His first experience as a director, the 1980 picture *Ordinary People*, came about because: "I'd done too many films where I was at the mercy of a director who I felt didn't get it, or had a different view than I did . . . you give yourself to a director and they put it in a different context than you were expecting. That begins to build up a frustration. I thought, wait a minute, this is no good, do it yourself."

The Brits 99 Live
Radio 1, 8.00pm

Mary Anne Hobbs will doubtless work up her usual enthusiasm in presenting four hours (yes, four hours) of live coverage from the London Arena, where half the guesswork will surround who wins and the other half will concern which pop icon will do this year's impromptu audition for *Men Behaving Badly*. But the Brit Awards are a useful primer as to what's up and what's not in contemporary music. Robbie Williams, as if you hadn't guessed, is the most-nominated singer this year. The other coveted award is for Best Newcomer, for which the leading nominees include Billie, Another Level, Gomez and Propellerheads. I shall be supporting Gomez on the grounds that I have heard of them. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Mark Goodier **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** The Brits 99. See Choice **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Richard Littlejohn **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Won't You Please, Please Help Me?. The highs and lows of everyday life, looking at the advice business. **10.00** The Directors. New six-part series. See Choice **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra. A full round-up and the main sports bulletin of the day **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Wimbledon v Tottenham Hotspur. Coverage of the Worthington Cup semi-final second-leg match **10.00** Late Night Live with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** My Favourite Year **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **7.00** Eubank's People **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Peter and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Performance **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** Discovery **9.00** World News **9.05** The Moonstone **9.20** Inspiration! **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Good Books **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Discovery **2.30** On Screen **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Megamix **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Omnibus **7.00** World News **7.05** Discovery **7.30** Human Remains **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Megamix **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Discovery **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** On Screen **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Women Who Dared To Speak **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of music **2.00** Concerto. Boccherini (Cello Concerto No 8 in G major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes information updates, Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces two hours of easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Schumann (Andante and Variations in B flat); Beethoven (33 Variations in C major); Grieg (Old Norwegian Romance with Variations); Jenkins (Adiemus Variations) **11.00** Michael Mappin. Music through until the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Boccherini (Cello Concerto No 8 in G major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths introduces the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of Welsh National Opera's new production of Britten's *Peter Grimes*
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Thomas (Overture: Mignon); Poulenc (Flute Sonata); Mozart (Piano Quartet in G minor, K478)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Raphael Wallfisch
11.00 Sound Stories: Exiles Mary, Queen of Scots
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Dvorak
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from Broadcasting House, Belfast. Renaissance and Baroque music for cornett and keyboards given by Jeremy West and Timothy Roberts
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth, Anne Evans, soprano. Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished); Berg (Seven Early Songs); Shostakovich (Symphony No 7, Leningrad)
4.00 Voices (r)
4.45 Music Machine 1998 Montreux Jazz Festival (r)
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Music includes Waxman's *Carmen Fantasy*
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Martin Roscoe, piano. Live at the Adrian Boult Hall in the Birmingham Conservatoire. Haydn (Sonata in B minor, H XVI 32); Schumann (Kinderszenen, Op 15); Beethoven (Sonata in C, Op 53, Waldstein) **8.25** A Sound Read. Ivan Hewett is joined by the playwright and poet Michelene Wandor and by the author Philip Hensher to review recently published books on music **8.45** Concert, part two. Liszt (Sonata in B minor)
9.40 Postscript: Aria P (2/5)
10.05 Ulster Orchestra under Vernon Handley. Busoni (Berceuse Elegiaque); Suk (A Fairy-Tale Suite)
10.45 Night Waves Richard Coles talks to researchers from science and philosophy about their different approaches towards the nature of human consciousness
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the first of a two-part concert by the Diana Krall Trio recorded at the 1998 Wigan International Jazz Festival
12.00am Composer of the Week: Telemann (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Beethoven (Symphony No 8) **1.35** Goldmark (String Quartet, Op 6) **2.00** Handel (Sonata in C, Op 1 No 7) **2.15** Bach (Orchestral Suite No 2) **2.40** Brahms (Symphony No 1) **3.35** Gabriel Charpentier (Messe pour Voix Egales) **3.45** Rautio (Piano Concerto No 2) **4.20** Purcell (King Arthur, excs) **4.35** Martin (Mass for two choirs) **5.00** Falla (Three Spanish Songs)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today News and issues in rural Britain, presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and Edward Stourton
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Unreliable Evidence New series. The mysteries of the legal system uncovered with the aid of expert guests and Clive Anderson
9.30 Home Thoughts New series. Nick Baker shadows the staff of newspapers and magazines directed at ex-pats living in Britain (1/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Planet of the Blind (2/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney
11.00 Nature Julian Hector marvels at the resilience of the world's ducks (r)
11.30 Coming Alive Terry and Steve attempt to bring local talent to the community centre — with help from an unexpected source. Karl Howman, Phyllis Logan and Ben Crowe star
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 My Mistress Music Lucie Skeaping explores the life of Nelson's companion Emma Hamilton (3/5)
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: From Galway to Graceland by Sue Teddern, based on a song by Richard Thompson. An Irish girl sets out on a pilgrimage to Elvis's Graceland resting place
3.00 The Exchange 0870 010 0444 Eddie Mair assesses listeners' opinions of a topical issue
3.30 Science in the Attic Stan Beesley and John Wilde examine the flora of Belfast (2/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 32 of the history of Britain
4.00 The Learning Curve The *Times* columnist Libby Purves presents the education guide
4.30 Shop Talk Business matters, presented by Heather Payton
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Mammon New series. A satirical spin on the world of money and the media by Nick Hildred, Hugh Rycroft and David Spicer (1/6)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the nightly arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 File on 4 Jenny Cuffe reviews important issues at home and abroad
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Behind the Brain Geoff Watts delves into the mystery of human consciousness (3/4)
9.30 Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain Patrick Malahide reads part two of Patrick O'Brien's historic seafaring novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: Angus Deayton's History of Alternative Comedy A celebration of black comedy, featuring Dick Gregory, Felix Dexter and Curtis Walker (3/4)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Weekly guide to films and film-going, with Brian Sibley
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: All Points North Poet Simon Armitage reads his series of wry reports on life in his home village of Marsden, in West Yorkshire (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Country living is not for the faint-hearted

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

The country is a great place to live, which is easy to say providing you don't actually have to live there yourself. In truth, living full-time in the country can be scarier than waking up and finding out you've spent the night with Peter Stringfellow. It may even be scarier than waking up and finding out that you are Peter Stringfellow.

Documentaries about guns in Moss Side and drugs in King's Cross create the impression that cities are Britain's crime magnets, but the spookiest crimes take place where there's nothing but wheatfields and farm animals as far as the eye can see (some of those crimes might actually involve farm animals). The latest evidence comes in **Forgotten** (ITV), a classy three-part psychological thriller starring Amanda Burton, Paul McGann and Zara Turner. Murder, deceit and obsession have been tautly woven together by Caleb Ranson, making his debut as a television writer. Ben Bolt, directing, has milked it for mystery.

Burton descends on a Cotswold hamlet the same day as a young girl is murdered in the woods. The bed and breakfast she checks into is run by McGann, who has served a jail term for the murder of Burton's daughter — a crime which he may or may not have committed: the body, like Kenneth Starr's charm, has never been found. He has since rebuilt his life: wife, child, a new name. But Burton has tracked him down and now threatens to cause havoc by exposing his secret past unless he confesses where her daughter's body is buried. McGann, still proclaiming his innocence, says he doesn't know. See how spooky the country gets?

Burton has a tough act to follow in Glenn *Fatal Attraction* Close, but pulls off the trick of maintaining a normal exterior that only occasionally betrays hints of the possibly psychotic menace beneath. She keeps us guessing as to whether she is just trying to exorcise her own ghosts, or whether she is a nutter (nutter, I'd say).

McGann, too, hints at something hidden — a secret which may well be dark and horrid. Or maybe he is in the same position as *The Fugitive*, a man torn between insisting "it wasn't me" on the one hand, and never bringing up the subject on the other. Zara Turner plays a familiar role: the sweet, supportive, reliable sidekick/wife/friend (she was a pathologist alongside John Hannah in *McCallum*, went along with husband Martin Clunes's desire to experiment with wife-swapping in *Touch and Go*, and was Gwyneth Paltrow's dependable friend in *Sliding Doors*). She is very good, very watchable, but she's got this kind of role off pat. What about playing Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* next?

Further evidence of the dangers lurking in the countryside came in **The League of Gentlemen** (BBC2), which ended its first run of six programmes leaving us looking forward eagerly to their return for a new series, but also convinced us that remote spots like Royston Vasey — inhabited by very scary human being-style people such as Uncle Harvey, the disastrous vet Mr Chinnery, a dodgy butcher and the transsexual cabbie Barbara, many of whom may have had oatmeal surgically inserted into their brains — are "local" places, for "local" people, as the local shopkeepers Tubbs and Edward would say.

London's green commons are the metropolitan equivalents of the countryside, only compressed into smaller areas — a genetically mutated bonsai countryside, which occasionally results in warped forms of human activity. In **Cutting Edge: Clapham Common** (Channel 4), Paul Wivell avoided the temptation to focus purely on the thickets of gay men cruising for anonymous sex by moonlight, or lingering too long on what Ron Davies might or might not have been doing there last autumn, or on painting the common as solely a freaks' gallery of loopy loners and dreamers. Instead he gave us an impressionistic portrait of a patch of London which many call home because often it may be the only home they know.

"It's a magical place, and magical things happen here," were the first words we heard, spoken by a man on the prowl for a stranger. But the most magical thing that seemed to be happening was the regular daily gathering of men and women who have nowhere else to pass the time. So they cruise by night; or sip tea in the café, where the shelves are so bare — a few crisps, some KitKats — that you'd think the place had just been burgled. "Man is a herd animal," sighed one of the old men, returning home because the café had shut for the night. "We're not meant to be alone." And yet most of these people — there were exceptions: a dancing couple, footballers, families playing — were alone. Even when they were among crowds, or sweaty with sex. "I've never met anyone who is not a romantic," said a young man, waiting to be picked up by someone whose name he would never find out. "It's not having sex with somebody, it's having that closeness with somebody you can wake up with and be glad you're waking up with." The haunting soundtrack and the grainy green images created by night-filming reinforced the impression of people whose lives are somehow not fully in focus.

Wivell turned what could have been a smirking gawp into a sympathetic, often amusing film, which suggested that Clapham Common — much like the world beyond — is a place where individuals fuse and collide more or less randomly, eking out happiness where they can find it. I blame all that spooky greenery. You certainly wouldn't catch me on it.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (12790)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (65719)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8956177)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4282852)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6427516)
11.00 Change That New series (6437993)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6334852)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1524239)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (36158)
12.30 Wipeout (4667041)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48153603)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (68806)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47702871)
1.40 Neighbours Hannah bids farewell to Erinsborough (T) (25698326)
2.05 Ironside The Chief investigates the murder of a musician (r) (3818887)
2.55 Body Spies (5162177)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6085806) **3.45** The Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (2875210) **3.50** Hububb (5787622) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (3297516) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (5777871) **5.00** Newsround (2224239) **5.10** Grange Hill (6869581)
5.33 Rewind (T) (974055)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (396500)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (535)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (887)
7.00 Holiday Jill Dando is in Malaysia and Kate Humble rides her bike through India (T) (8784)
7.30 EastEnders Conor confides in Phil about Ruth's pregnancy (T) (871)
8.00 Holby City Nick's priorities are called into question (T) (5351)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7603)
9.30 Workers at War Disgruntled former employees tell their stories (T) (74806)
10.00 Inside Story The effects of America's gun culture on youngsters (T) (848210)



Clint Eastwood stars as a prisoner determined to escape (10.55pm)

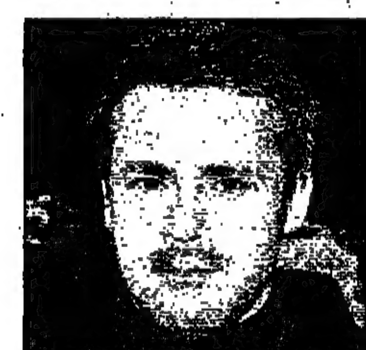
10.55 Escape from Alcatraz (1979) A convict makes a daring attempt to break out of the high-security prison. Starring Clint Eastwood and Patrick McGoohan. Directed by Don Siegel (T) (80924581)
12.40am Convict Cowboy (1995) A tough rodeo rider serving a jail sentence attempts to prevent a naive inmate from falling in with the wrong crowd. With Jon Voight. Rod Holcomb directs (2598098)
2.10 Weather (7716007)
2.15 BBC News 24 (52846388)

WALES

9.30 Week In, Week Out (T) (74806) **10.00 The Next Files** (3/5) (618993) **10.10 Workers at War** (T) (713887) **10.40 Inside Story** (5/5) (T) (284603) **11.35 FILM: Escape from Alcatraz** (T) (645516) **1.20am FILM: Convict Cowboy** (8944299) **2.50 News Headlines** (T) (4162727) **2.55 BBC News 24** (72024630)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Little Polar Bear (3040326) **7.05** Teletubbies (6968968) **7.30** Snorks (5778041) **7.50** Blue Peter (6723055) **8.20** Taz-Mania (7902516) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3981264) **8.50** Oakie Doke (3987448) **9.00** German Globo (6062887) **9.05** Hallo aus Berlin (6061158) **9.10** Working It Out (9334595) **9.25** Techno (4628784) **9.45** Numbertime (1881061) **10.00** Teletubbies (29429) **10.30** Watch (2715055) **10.45** Teaching Today (581177) **11.15** Megamaths (7965626) **11.35** Words and Pictures (8597806) **11.50** History File (8401055) **12.10pm** English Express (9471784) **12.30** Working Lunch (89784) **1.00** Oakie Doke (94136993)
1.10 The Travel Hour The delights of the Basque country (r) (9727055)
2.10 Sporting Greats (61946264)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3135142)
2.45 Westminster (T) (2682784)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (1903662)
3.30 Awash with Colour (993)
4.00 Kaye Advice show (6166177)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6169264)
4.55 Esther Mothers-in-law (T) (3403245)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (264)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Carlton and Will go camping (r) (T) (335622)
6.25 Heartbreak High Sarah has a shock in store for Ryan (T) (582245)
7.10 The O Zone Jayne Middlemiss meets Britney Spears ! (T) (340974)
7.30 From the Edge A look at issues affecting disabled people (T) (413)
8.00 University Challenge Oriel College Oxford v Manchester University (T) (8974)
8.30 Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey The chef journeys to Thailand (T) (4581)
9.00 **CHOICE** **Home Front in the Garden** New series in which garden designer Diarmuid Gavin offers tips on creating a horticultural haven (T) (5245)

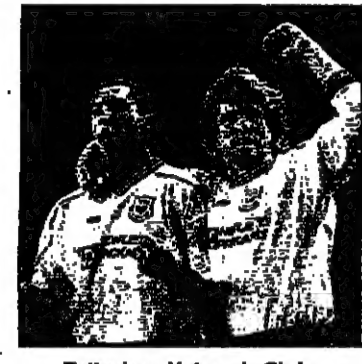


Damien Hirst offers his views on galleries and auctions (9.30pm)

9.30 **CHOICE** **Close Up** New series. Collectors of contemporary art discuss their reasons for buying such controversial pieces (T) (166448)
10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework (T) (142055)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (516546)
11.15 Seinfeld George mixes business with pleasure (T) (967041)
11.35 The Larry Sanders Show Arthur loses an expensive gift (T) (981429)
12.00am Despatch Box (82140)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Living with Technology **1.30** Traps and How to Get Out of Them **2.00** Schools: Special Needs — Ghostwriter **4.00** Languages: Suenos World Spanish **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves **5.45** Open University: Pilgrimage — The Shrine at Loreto **6.10** Frederick the Great and Sans Souci **6.35** Taking Note

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (52852)
6.00 GMTV (2913018)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5316603)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11340210)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7926239)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (76210)
1.00 Shortland Street Johnny makes a momentous decision (53974)
1.30 Home and Away What is Robert up to? (T) (75581)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5661142)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (851448)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (3703644)
3.20 HTV News (T) (6953167)
3.25 CITV: Cartoon Time (4579790) **3.50** The Wombles (2881871) **4.00** Rupert (6153603) **4.25** Mike and Angelo (3114239) **4.50** How 2 (7491852)
5.10 A Country Practice Ian Macintyre impresses Darcy (9009871)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (780149)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (705018)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (339448)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (770968)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (598784)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (555)
7.00 Emmerdale Chris tries to make Kathy jealous (T) (3852)
7.30 WEST: West Eye View A report on a new nationwide initiative aimed at raising awareness of the dangers to children from paedophiles (239)
7.30 WALES: Fishlock's Wild Tracks The Vale of Glamorgan (T) (239)



Tottenham Hotspur's Chris Armstrong and David Ginola (8pm)

8.00 The Big Match — Live! Wimbledon v Tottenham Hotspur. In the Worthington Cup semi-final second-leg (kick-off 8.05pm). Bob Wilson presents the action from Selhurst Park. In the event of extra time, subsequent programmes are subject to change (T) (1535)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (59055)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (474429)
10.40 The Real Life Monty Six male strippers from Essex (T) (292622)
11.40 WEST: Pleasure Guide Regional entertainment magazine (615974)
11.40 WALES: Anatomy of Disaster Intense storms and immense waves (312245)
12.10am Tales from the Crypt A plantation owner uses a voodoo potion to ensnare a rich heiress. Spooky story, with DW Moffett and Pamela Glen (r) (6874340)
12.40 The Haunted Fishtank (5486307)
1.10 Highlander An evil Immortal threatens to bring anarchy to Europe (r) (7800388)
2.05 Planet Rock Profiles With Texan singer songwriter Lyle Lovett (7600036)
2.35 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (8641889)
3.05 Judge Judy (T) (55356104)
3.25 Football Extra Football League highlights (r) (6863982)
4.20 Coach Hayden tries to reason with Luther (39339833)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (1575307)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8318871) **1.00 Heart of the Country** (1/18) (r) (T) (53974) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1585332) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (852177) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (6953167) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9009871) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (770968) **7.30-8.00 Landladies** (T) (239) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (474429) **11.40-12.40 Renegade** (312245) **2.55am Judge Judy** (T) (3893833) **3.15 Football Extra** (r) (6872630) **4.10 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (4057807) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7227272)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7926239) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8499790) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (53974) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1585332) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (852177) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (6953167) **5.08 Birthday People** (5101697) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9009871) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (64429) **7.30-8.00 Wild West Country** (5/6) (T) (239) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (474429) **11.40-12.40 An Audience with All Saints** (312245)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7926239) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9009871) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (603) **6.30-7.00 Surprise Chefs** (5/10) (555) **7.30-8.00 Wildlife SOS** (239) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (474429) **11.40 Cyber Cafe** (615974) **12.10am-12.40 Hope and Gloria** (6874340) **5.00-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (25949)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8400806) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8318871) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9009871) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (705018) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (603) **6.30-7.00 About Anglia** (555) **7.30-8.00 Liza's Country** (5/6) (239) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (415413) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (474429) **11.40 Go Fishing with John Wilson** (r) (615974) **12.10am-12.40 Hope and Gloria** (r) (6874340)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (71399149) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34080264) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast;** Saved By the Bell (29492622) **9.30 Sam and Max** (T) (10099055) **9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (10170974) **10.25 Planet Pop** (57094142) **10.50 Moesha** (50813974) **11.20 Madison** (53171332) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (59181993) **12.00pm Bewitched** (T) (29489158) **12.30 Sesame Street** (r) (T) (38027245) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34083351) **1.30 Earthscape** (37499055) **1.35 FILM: Uncle Silas** (T) (80479332) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81922429) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81934264) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (81930448) **5.00 Planed Plant** (64348239) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81841500) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54226622) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16109429) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64424603) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81931177) **8.00 Y Sioe Gelf** (T) (64433351) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (64429158) **9.00 Cutting Edge** (88016041) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60058968) **10.35 Boyz Unlimited** (T) (56538806) **11.05 Riddle of the Skies** (T) (90689500) **12.05am FILM: A Home of Our Own** (40845386) **2.00 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.40am Rat-a-Tat-Tat (3755790)
5.55 Sesame Street (3597603)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (58429)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast; Saved by the Bell (32332)
9.30 Sam and Max (9278852)
9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (9286871)
10.25 Planet Pop (1177535)
10.50 Moesha (T) (2445351)
11.20 Madison (3169069)
11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (8588158)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (56968)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (74852)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (51516)
1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman Changes in the environment (T) (79351)
2.00 Travelog Treks (T) (35173871)
2.10 The Mark of Zorro (TVM 1974) Remake of the 1940 classic, with Frank Langella. Don McDougall directs (T) (3191513)
3.30 Collectors' Lot A collection of candle snuffers (T) (531)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (968)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5761210)
4.55 Ricki Lake Teens who suffer from obesity (T) (3325413)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (332)
6.00 Dishes Dating show with a culinary theme (T) (245)
6.30 Home Improvement After a cruel Hallowe'en trick, Tim and Jill wreak revenge on Brad and Randy (T) (697)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (804784)
7.50 Zoom Donald Christie meets menswear designer Jeff Griffin (T) (493210)
8.00 Brookside Tim tries to convince DS Rose of his innocence (T) (7582)
8.30 Carry On Snogging A light-hearted look at the social and sexual changes which occurred during 20 years of *Carry On films* (r) (T) (2177)
9.00 **CHOICE** **The Coroner** New series. The work of the Birmingham City Coroner's office (1/4) (2697)



The late Dermot Morgan stars in a comedy double bill (10pm)

10.00 Father Ted The priests organise a raffle (r) (T) (57697)
10.30 Father Ted An important ceremony looms (r) (T) (449603)
11.05 **CHOICE** **Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker** The Pulp frontman explores the extraordinary architecture of France (1/3) (T) (586185)
12.05am L.627 (1992) Documentary-style drama charting a Parisian cop's efforts to crack down on drug dealers. Directed by Bertrand Tavernier (74375307)
2.45 Aux Yeux du Monde (1991) A youth who can't afford to visit his girlfriend hijacks a school bus and sets off to see her. French drama, starring Yvan Attal. Directed by Eric Rochant (904104)
4.35 Aristophanes: The Gods Are Laughing Drama based on the life of the Greek playwright (r) (T) (4156746)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport A round-up of current events (6367210)
7.00 WideWorld Part three. How chemistry has played a part in creative human endeavour (r) (T) (6805351)
7.30 Milkshake! (1490185)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (3067177)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4833351)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (4832622)
9.00 Instant Gardens (r) (T) (1532158)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (7267429)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6830413)
10.20 Sunset Beach Sean tells Emily he loves her (T) (1910806)
11.10 Leeza (4329429)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4730210)
12.30 Family Affairs Roy abducts Claire (r) (T). 5 News Update (9782784)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Brooke demands the truth about Taylor and Ridge (T) (6804622)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat; 5 News Update (9781055)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5937784)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, 5 News Update (1653264)
3.30 Once Upon a Family (1980) A selfish family man's wife walks out, leaving him to face up to his fatherly responsibilities. Drama, starring Barry Bostwick. Directed by Richard Michaels (T) (9574326)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (6144167)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (6267429)
6.30 Family Affairs Cat ponders Dave's sudden lack of interest (T) (6178581)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5931500)
7.30 Champions of Nature New wildlife documentary series focusing on biologists and animal activists around the world who have dedicated their lives to the study of endangered species. The opening programme takes viewers to the Bahamas, where Sam Gruber and Tim Calver have founded the world's first shark conservation programme (1/12) (T); 5 News Update (6270993)
8.00 The Other Mother (1995) A woman who feels she's reached a crossroads in life sets out to find the son she gave up for adoption years earlier, hoping that being reunited with him will give her new purpose. Drama based on a true story, starring Frances Fisher, Connie Clark, Deborah May and Cameron Bancroft. Directed by Bethany Rooney (T); 5 News Update (32383429)
9.50 Dillinger (1973) Director John Milius's powerful account of the notorious Depression-era gangster's brief, bloody career and eventual death at the hands of the law enforcement agent Melvin Purvis. Warren Oates, Michelle Phillips and Ben Johnson star. Directed by John Milius (T); 5 News Update (2337719)
11.50 The Jack Docherty Show With guests Lorraine Kelly, Tony Blackburn and Adam Bloom (7720448)
12.30am Live and Dangerous (34364833)
3.45 Asian Football Show (3124901)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Judy receives bad news and Rachel takes over in the kitchen (1707843)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9722340)

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● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (13697) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (15326) **8.30** Gimmy (84142) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (81622) **9.30** Flash Gordon (29326) **10.00** Miracles and Other Wonders (93516) **11.00** Guilty! (39993) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (15177) **1.00** Mad About You (11968) **1.30** Jeopardy (22413) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (71806) **3.00** Jenny Jones (31697) **4.00** Guilty! (16332) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (9055) **6.00** Guilty! (6887) **6.30** Dream Team (4239) **7.00** The Simpsons (9554) **7.30** The Simpsons (9351) **8.00** Rescue Medics (2332) **8.30** Coppers (5239) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (47790) **10.00** Greece Uncovered (57177) **11.00** Dream Team (17061) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (83968) **12.30am** The Commish (75017) **1.30** Long Play (7484982)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
Double Team (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Fools Rush In (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Paws (1998)
The Chippendales, For One Night Only
Boogie Nights (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
In and Out (1997)

FILMFOUR

5.00pm Things Change (1988) (40422101) **7.35 Head Nut** (2888055) **8.00 Sweet Smell of Success (1957)** (66161652) **9.35** My Name is Ken (1105581) **10.00 Barton Fink (1991)** (4857326) **12.00am First Name: Carmen (1983)** (5252017) **1.30 Poor Cow (1967)** (566882) **3.10** My Name is Ken (9175823) **3.40 Quiz Show (1994)** (4615340) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

.00am **A Stranger to Love (1996)** (6413) **8.00 An American Tail (1986)** (4211142) **9.20 An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (1991)** (3196326) **10.35 Space Jam (1996)** (4765500) **12.00pm** The Directors: The Films of Joel Schumacher (21577) **1.00** Hollywood Buzz (17535) **2.00 A Stranger to Love (1996)** (66871) **4.00 An American Tail (1986)** (2558055) **5.20 An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (1991)** (4920413) **6.35 Space Jam (1996)** (4394072) **8.00 Fierce Creatures (1997)** (58852) **10.00 The Devil's Own (1997)** (450500) **11.50 The Crucible (1996)** (57722516) **1.55am Mulholland Falls (1996)** (369456) **3.45 The Glass Cage (1996)** (689 23901)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.35am Smokey and the Bandit (1977) (15838500) **7.10 The Buttercream Gang (1992)** (59548041) **9.00 Bury Me in Niagara (1992)** (75822) **11.00 Little Bigfoot (1995)** (33448) **1.00pm The Buttercream Gang (1992)** (73210) **3.00 Bury Me in Niagara (1992)** (87784) **5.00 Little Bigfoot (1995)** (84719) **7.00 Wing and a Prayer (1998)** (90429) **9.00 The Girl Next Door (1997)** (59581) **11.00 Shadow Conspiracy (1997)** (324871) **12.45am Any Place But Home (1996)** (778814) **2.20 Mother, May I Sleep with Danger? (1998)** (9885456) **3.50 Talk to Me (1996)** (289104)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Pearl of Death (1944) (4162784) **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame Vivien Leigh (3292719) **6.00 Flesh and Fury (1952)** (1898413) **8.00 Road to Utopia (1945)** (1961158) **10.00** 100 Years, 100 Movies. The Wilder Shores of Love (1123087) **10.55 My Fair Lady (1964)** (63699608) **1.45am The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds (1972)** (8176036) **3.30 Gypsy (1962)** (6384369)

TNT

9.00pm 36 Hours (1964) (21302887) **11.15 The Sunshine Boys (1975)** (77156824) **1.30am Zigzag (1970)** (41671272) **3.30 Cairo (1963)** (16892814) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** Total Sport **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Football League Review **11.00** Triathlon **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** Monday Night Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** Powerboat and Jetski World **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Fastrax **8.00** World Wrestling Federation **11.15** Sports Centre **11.30** You're On Sky Sports! **12.15am** Spanish Football **2.15** Inside Scottish Football **3.15** Sports Centre **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Total Sport **10.30** V-Max **11.00** World Motor Sport **2.00pm** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **5.00** Total Sport **5.30** Athletics: Road Race of the Month **6.00** Sports Unlimited **7.00** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **10.00** Women's Golf **12.00am** European Seniors Tour Golf **1.00** Sports Unlimited **2.00** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Wonderful World of Golf **3.00** A to Z of Motor Sport **3.30** V-Max **4.00** Women's Golf **6.00** Fish TV **7.00** European Seniors Tour Golf **8.00** Spanish Football **10.00** Boxing Superbouts **11.00** The Entertainers **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

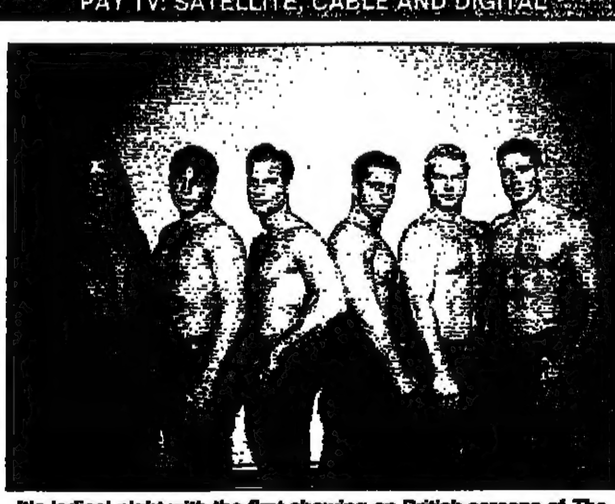
7.30am Luge **8.00** Women's Alpine Skiing **9.00** Biathlon **11.00** Football: Eurogoals **12.30pm** Car on Ice **1.00** Equestrianism **2.00** Dog Sled Racing **2.30** Biathlon **4.00** Live Swimming **6.00** Live Football **8.00** Live Boxing **10.00** Indoor Athletics **11.00** US Golf **12.00am** Rally **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Detectives **9.00** Red Dwarf V **9.40** Crime Traveller **10.45** Bugs **11.50** The Bill **12.20am** The Bill **12.50** The Black Adder **1.25** French and Saunders **2.00** Spender **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Bowler **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Pig in the Middle **2.00** Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors





It's ladies' night with the first showing on British screens of *The Chippendales, For One Night Only* (Sky Box Office 3, 9pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.30** PB and J Otter **7.00** 101 Dalmatians Double Bill **8.00** Hercules: The TV Show — Double Bill **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Disney's Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Smart Guy **11.00** Crash Zone **11.30** Boy Meets World **12.00pm** Student Bodies **12.30** Dinosaurs **1.00** Amazing Animals **1.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.15** PB and J Otter **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Aladdin and the King of Thieves (1995)** **8.15** Dinosaurs: Double Bill **9.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids. The TV Show **9.45** Home Improvement **10.15** Mega Movie Magic **10.30** The Wonder Years **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Bureau of Alien Detectors **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli: New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.50** Home to Rent **10.00** Sam and Max **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.50** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **11.00** Life with Louie **11.25** C-Bear and Jamal **11.50** Donkey Kong Country or Mowgli: New Adventures of the Jungle **1.55pm** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** The Big Half-Term Event **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek! **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** Angry Beavers **8.00** CatDog **9.00** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Kenan and Kel **12.00pm** Moesha **1.00** The Journey of Allen Strange **2.00** Doug **3.00** Rugrats **4.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **5.00** Sister Sister **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Saved by the Bell **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempest **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Rush **6.45** Bangs **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic confessions **11.00** **FILM: Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (1974)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Erotic Series **2.05** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.35** Cops **3.05** **FILM: Deathline (1972)** **5.00** LAPD **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** News Radio **9.00** Whose Line is it Anyway? **9.30** Drop the Dead Donkey **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Lexx **10.00** Asteroid **12.00am** Dark Skies **1.00 FILM: Invader (1995)** **2.45** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Diceman **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Homeline **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** Treasure Hunters **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Secrets of the Deep **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** Survivor **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** Everest Mountain of Dreams **11.00** Spitzberg. Long Night in the Ice Park **12.00am** Trailblazers **1.00** Treasure Hunters **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **12.30** Wild at Heart **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** Breed All About It: Afghan Hounds **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Totally Australia **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Last Paradises **10.30** Animal Detectives **11.00** All-Bird TV **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Pandas: A Giant Stirs **8.00** The First Emperor of China **9.00** Deep into the Labyrinth **9.30** The Mountain Sculptors **10.00** Buddha on the Silk Road **11.00** The Wrecks of Condor Reef **12.00am** The Shark Files: Danger Beach

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: Forever Free **5.00** Schooners **6.00** Forbidden City: Dynasty and Destiny **7.00** Battle of the Clans: With Fire and Sword

CARLTON FOOD

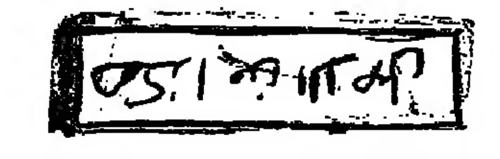
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Chef on a Shoestring **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Surprise Chefs **1.00** Chef on a Shoestring **1.30** Thoroughly Modern British **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Winter Nosh **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Lunch with Ed Baines **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Ro londa **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00 FILM: Evidence of Love (1990)** **11.30** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Punjabi Folk Songs **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthup Show **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Himalaya's **10.00** Ab Tum Jaa Sakte Ho **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** FILM **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** 1-10 **6.30** Humm Tara Rum **7.00** Jee Sahab **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **10.30** X Zone **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **12.00am** News **12.30** Pakistan Business Week **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Rishtey **2.00** FILM **4.30** Lolly-Pop





GOLF 40
O'Meara reflects on the success that came late in life

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 45
Leicester take action against Healey over stamping incident



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 1999

Talks over England job to resume

Keegan torn between club and country

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN KEEGAN has asked for more time to consider the Football Association's offer to make him manager of England and made it clear that he would only do the job on his own, well-defined terms.

Keegan held a two-hour meeting with Noel White, the chairman of the FA's international committee, and David Davies, the executive director, close to his home near Newcastle yesterday afternoon after Mohamed Al Fayed, the Fulham chairman, had given them permission to speak to him.

As Davies and White flew back to London from the North East to weigh up their position, leaving Keegan to discuss the offer with his family, the FA released an official statement that described the meeting as "amicable". "They will be speaking again within 48 hours," it said. "The FA are still considering all the options."

If things go smoothly, Keegan could be announced as the successor to Glenn Hoddle tomorrow, but it is still a distinct possibility that the Fulham manager could turn the FA down flat. Keegan has been at pains to emphasise his emotional attachment to Fulham and the loyalty he feels to the club's supporters, who begged him to stay yesterday. It may be that those pleadings persuade him to forsake his country.

It soon became clear, too, that there was a harder subtext to the amicability involved in negotiations yesterday. Keegan knows that he is in a strong position at the head of a very short shortlist and he is not about to surrender it lightly. He is thought to be particularly keen to limit the powers of Howard Wilkinson, the FA technical director, who is seeking to broaden his role and become director of football, with overall responsibility for the under-21 and full national teams.

In Wilkinson's scheme of things, Keegan would be in an essentially subservient position as national coach. He is unlikely to tolerate that and it is probable that he has asked the FA that Wilkinson should be kept away from England training sessions at Bisham Abbey. He would certainly not be prepared for Wilkinson to sit on the England bench at international matches, as Gérard Houllier used to do as the technical director of France.

Wilkinson: ambitions

Keegan is not that sort of character. For all his bonhomie, his articulacy and his charm, he is a ruthless, driven man who would not brook any significant interference. Wilkinson, though, is intent on seizing his own opportunity to establish an extended power base and Davies and White have found themselves thrust into the epicentre of a classic political struggle to establish respective boundaries before Keegan commits to the job.

Keegan is also keen to be given permission to appoint his own No 2, a right-hand man to help him with coaching and give him a ready-made ally at Lancaster Gate. The other big sticking point, though, is likely to be his determination not to sever his links with Fulham.

The FA has already reluctantly accepted that, if he takes the bait, Keegan will take charge of the next four internationals — against Poland, Hungary, Sweden and Bulgaria — on a part-time basis, flitting between Bisham and Craven Cottage, trying to resuscitate England's bid to qualify for the 2000 European championship and ensure Fulham's promotion to the Nationwide League first division.

They will have to iron out difficulties, such as the fact that Fulham have a crucial league match against Walsall on March 27, the same night as the qualifying tie against Poland, but it is also thought that Keegan might try to insist that he retains his links with the club the following season too, to complete the job of steering them into the FA Carling Premiership.

That would not be unprecedented. Oleg Romantsev combines his duties as Russia coach with managing Spartak Moscow and Wanderley Luxembourgo, the coach of Brazil, no less, has insisted on staying on with Corinthians in an advisory capacity.

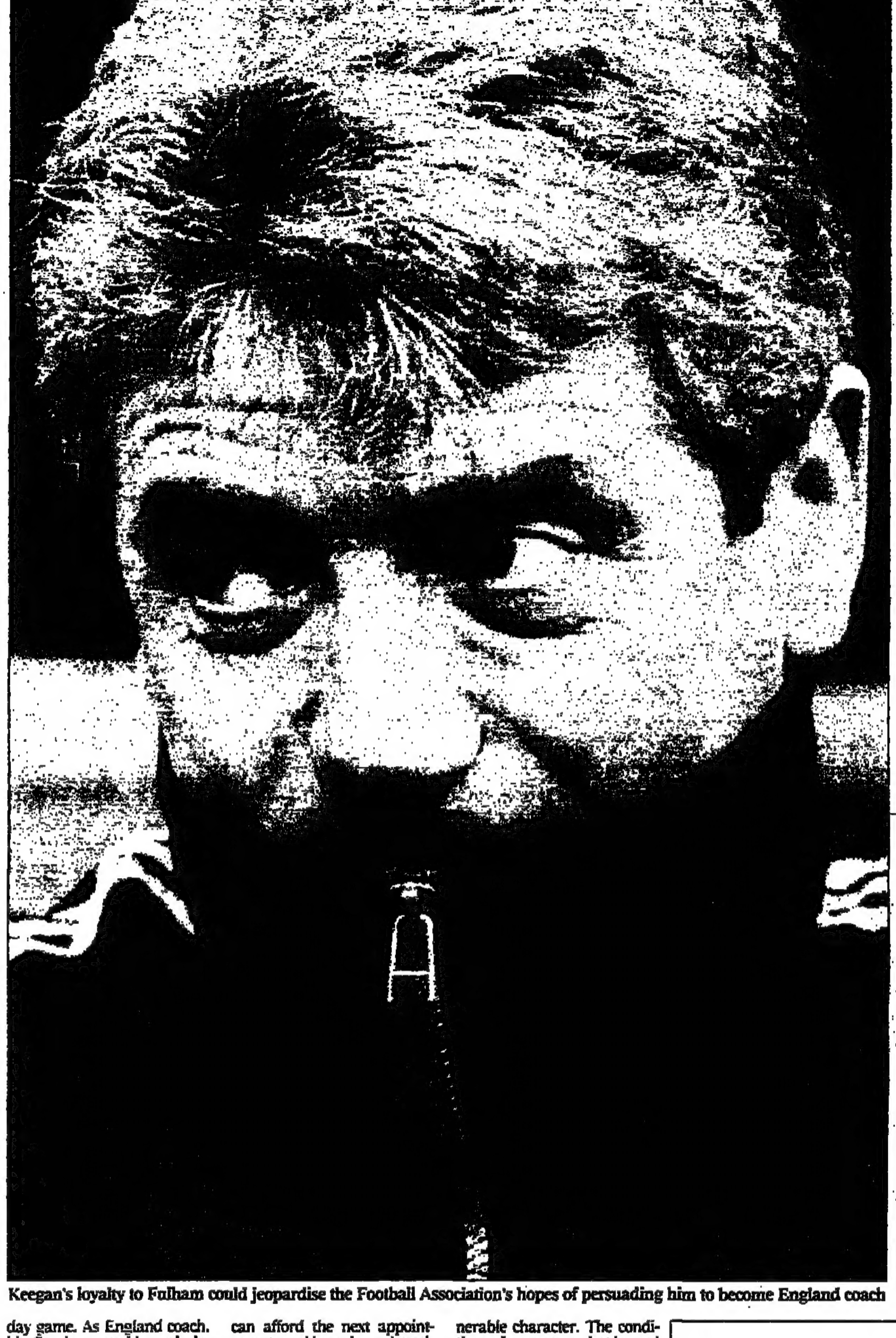
Whether the FA would be prepared to accept such an arrangement is open to doubt. If England were not to fare well against Poland, for instance — David Batty, the Leeds United midfield player, ruled himself out of contention for that match yesterday because of a rib injury — one can imagine only too vividly the howls of anger about having a part-time coach, about how England needs someone working flat out to revive the nation's fortunes.

Keegan, a man with a notoriously thin skin when it comes to criticism, might find that hard to deal with. It is also worth considering the fact that Keegan's duties as Fulham coach will hardly give him an insight into the form of England's best players, the vast majority of whom do not play in the Nationwide League.

Keegan values time spent with his family and hurries back to them after every Saturday game. As England coach, his Sundays would surely be spent watching Premiership football. It is important for both sides that all these points are resolved before, not after, Keegan takes the job. After the messy departure of Hoddle, neither the FA nor the country can afford the next appointment to end in early, acrimonious failure.

Given the regrettable fact that Terry Venables, the players' choice, is not acceptable to White, Keegan is the best man for the job. But he is an emotional, volatile, essentially vulnerable character. The conditions of acceptance that he and the FA will struggle over today need to be absolutely right if he is to be given the framework that he needs to succeed. He holds the whip hand.

Man of emotions, page 44



Keegan's loyalty to Fulham could jeopardise the Football Association's hopes of persuading him to become England coach

Half-price concession for Cup rematch at Highbury

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

TICKET prices for the FA Cup fifth-round rematch between Arsenal and Sheffield United at Highbury on February 23 have been halved. The Arsenal directors, who met yesterday, have ruled out suggestions that the proceeds from the game should go to charity.

Although Arsenal won the original tie 2-1 on Saturday, the winning goal, from Marc Overmars, was hotly disputed by Sheffield players, who contended that Overmars and Nwankwo Kanu had taken unfair advantage of a throw-in conceded by Alan Kelly, the United goalkeeper, who had kicked the ball into touch to allow Lee Morris, a team-mate, to receive treatment.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, immediately offered to replay the fixture, a move swiftly sanctioned by the Football Association.

"It was decided that any concessions should go to the supporters," an Arsenal spokeswoman, said. "We will now be selling the tickets at half the normal prices."

Wenger welcomed the move. "Supporters have got a new game, so it can't really be for free," he said. "Half-price is right. Clubs have a responsibility to all people who love football and I think we have shown that responsibility."

Wenger added his support to calls for legislation to be introduced to plug the apparent loophole exposed by the extraordinary incident at Highbury. "You have to keep to the values that you know as a child," he said. "Teams must respect fair play.

"The referee had no power to take any action on Saturday and I have thought about maybe the creation of a rule to cover what happened. But it is difficult. If a player kicks the ball out because a team-mate is injured, he could use it to waste some time or take the pace off the game. It will not be easy to create a good rule."

Steve Bruce, the manager of Sheffield United, accepts that Arsenal, who fielded a weakened line-up on Saturday, could be close to full strength next week, but said: "We're just grateful for the second chance."

Kevin McCarra 44

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1642

ACROSS
1 Arrogantly offhand (8)
5 Element, galvanises steel (4)
9 At an angle: indirect (7)
10 Chinese animal; police patrol (car) (5)
11 Boundary, side (4)
12 Employee list, cost (7)
14 Seniors (6)
16 Enumeration of inhabitants (6)
19 Take mazy path (7)
21 Mound: too old, if over it (4)
24 Quantity of drinks, sandwiches (5)
25 Plant for smoking (7)
26 Chief (4)
27 Well-meant falsehood (5,3)

DOWN
1 Jam up: item of footwear (4)
2 Having legal force (5)
3 Sweet alcoholic drink (7)
4 Given privileged freedom (6)
6 Volcanic (rock) (7)
7 King during Civil War (7,1)
8 Salmon river, sounds like *sterilise* (4)
13 Stain (eg reputation) (8)
15 The vampire count (7)
17 Show; one shown (7)
18 A prop (for the lame) (6)
20 Extinct *Mauritius bird* (4)
22 Of the neighbourhood (5)
23 Skin opening (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1641
ACROSS: 1 Bide 3 Postbag 8 Insular 9 Agree 10 Hyena 11 Expects 13 Break even 17 Smetana 19 Peter 20 Hovel 22 Bourbon 23 Artiste 24 Leah
DOWN: 1 Bright 2 Dissemble 3 Purbeck marble 4 Swamp 5 Bar 6 Grease 7 Sleaze 12 Constable 14 Vapour 15 Asthma 16 Wrench 18 Atlas 21 Vat

FA should risk inspired choice

Rob Hughes believes that Keegan is the right man at the right time

Kevin Keegan for England? What are we afraid of? Keegan was spending last night with his family in Newcastle. We might think that it is his last night as a free man and that by teatime today he will be employed as the new coach — the trainer, the saviour, or whatever he is called — of the nation.

What this would do is ensure that there would *not* be, while he worked between enthusing the team and imploding, another such anodyne night as last Wednesday against France. Keegan's England would, filled by the very breath of his own make-or-break spirit, perform in the manner of Franz Klammer, the skier whom Keegan has admired and kept in touch with since they appeared in a *Superstars* television programme in 1976.

That is not to say that it would be downhill all the way. Far from it. Keegan would take the troops to the very top, would urge them over the summit and would at least demand that when playing for their country, even when outclassed, they would leave on the field every ounce of sweat and effort.

What is wrong with that? England do not possess anything approaching the great skill and vision that belongs to Zidane, Bergkamp or Rivaldo. We are artisans of the game. But, in private, Keegan never assumed that he was one of the great gifted; he merely refused to submit to those who were. When SV Hamburg supporters dubbed him "Mighty Mouse" and when the experts of Europe's combined nations voted him, in consecutive years, the best player on the Continent, they were responding to his obsessed will, his compelling nature, his absolute refusal to be second in anything.

Could he breathe that into England? He did it with Newcastle United. "I was not personally blessed with pace, not blessed with tremendous ability, but on my day I could look a good player," he once said. "When it wasn't going so good, I could make people say that I really ran my socks off." Who would decry an England team performing in that fashion? It would mean a tacit admission that coaching, or cajoling, England's finest is less the job of a teacher, more an inspirer or motivator.

Johan Cruyff, who was blessed with genius, reacted yesterday to the proposition of England in the care of Keegan by saying: "Good, the best coach to a national team is one who understands everything about the nation, who knows the limitations of each player, who knows how to create a momentum." Keegan excels at that and if anyone is likely to turn Alan Shearer into something more than the glowering man of the past that he appeared at Wembley last week, *I cannot think of anyone better.*

The ride would be volatile. Whoever is given the job will have, first of all, to raise the spirit, then raise the tempo so that it sustains for an entire match the pace that rocked the world champions for the first 20 minutes. Keegan would need Howard Wilkinson, or someone more versed in tactical awareness and caution, but if anyone is capable of restoring what Giampiero Boniperti, the renowned Italian, once called England's "indestructible sense of superiority", then it is him.

Cruyff: backs appointment

Keegan is the antithesis to Glenn Hoddle. Where Hoddle was an indulgent player of supreme gifts, Keegan made himself through extreme work-rate and a sense of adventure. When, as surely would be the case given time, that turns to misadventure and when his relationships with the press, the players and the Football Association turn explosively sour, then at least we may look back and say, for a time, England *dared.*

But, before everyone helps him to press the self-destruct button, consider this. Terry Venables, much lauded for his charisma, tactical vision and public relations, did not actually win very much with England. Euro 96 was an exercise in bloated expectation in which the home nation won two out of five matches. The highlight of Hoddle's England was a stirring, defensive, goalless draw in Rome.

If we want more, if we want to be exhilarated by an England team that, though not blessed with magical talents, will at least give every last ounce in the cause, then applaud, if he is offered and accepts it, the appointment of Keegan.

It leaves me wondering why Mohamed Al Fayed seemed so willingly to say: "It's up to Kevin, he can stay with me, or he is free." Al Fayed's price may be known in time, but the price of turning to a safer option may be more nights like last Wednesday, when England were second-best and, worse, accepted it for more than an hour.

